



LA GRANADA



March 2024

Founding Chapter



San Antonio, TX



www.granaderos.org



editor: joe pérez



George Washington Parade



On Saturday, February 17th, the San Antonio Chapter joined the host Laredo Chapter in the George Washington Birthday Parade in Laredo, Texas. This year, we participated in the Abrazo on the Bridge ceremony, which took place at the international boundary marker on one of the bridges, prior to marching in the parade.

After the parade, we celebrated our participation with a fiesta very graciously hosted by the Laredo Chapter. The ceremony was interesting, the parade was fun and the party was outstanding as the Laredo Chapter, once again, had us enjoying good food, good drinks, and good friendship.

Thanks go out to all who made it happen.

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Next Meeting
Wednesday, March 6

La Fonda Restaurant
8633 Crownhill Blvd
Dinner: 6:30 Meeting 7:30

Presenter:

Jorge Luis García Ruiz, Ph.D.

Presentation:

Presidio
(Soldados del Rey)

Dr. Jorge Luis García Ruiz is Spanish by birth (Madrid) and North American by adoption.

He has a doctoral degree in Ancient World Studies from the Complutense University in Madrid, Spain, which is one of the oldest research universities in the world. He has a Master's degree from the Autonomous University of Madrid. He is a historical researcher specializing in Spanish history in North America, including the missions and prisons.

He will give a presentation on the his book, *Presidio, Soldados del Rey*, published in 2023. It is the first volume of a series dedicated to the Spanish presidios established in New Spain that were part of the conquest and Christianization of North America.



to our March babies

March 3

Rueben Perez

March 6

Valerie Finch

March 19

Dale John Joseph Leppard

March 31

Louissette Zurita

Governor

José (Joe) González

Deputy Governor

Elizabeth Pérez

Treasurer

Manny Rodriguez

Secretary

Janie Rodriguez

Chaplain

Joe Weathersby

Sergeant Major

Adam Dominguez

New Members

We extend a newsletter welcome to two ladies whose membership had not been previously announced in La Granada; Dama Blanche De Leon and Dama Norma Rojas. The editor apologizes for this oversight. We also welcome our newest member, Dama Yolanda Inglis. We thank all three of you for joining us in our quest to educate the public about Spain's participation in the American Revolution, especially the heroic efforts of General Bernardo de Gálvez. Welcome aboard Blanche, Norma, and Yolanda!

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for the upcoming events shown below. This is a very busy time of year for us. Any assistance you can provide at these events helps tremendously. You don't have to be in uniform to help.

Saturday, April 6: Tejeda History Faire (10:00-2:00)

Saturday, April 13: FolkFest (Time to be determined)

Saturday, April 27: King William Parade (9:00-11:00)

Saturday, May 19: Parman Library History Faire (2:00-4:00)

Texas DAR Patriot Monument

Fifteen names will be engraved into the Daughters of the American Revolution Patriot Monument to honor American Revolutionary patriots who died in Texas.

The names of the fifteen patriots can be seen on the notice to the right.

This historic ceremony will be on Sunday, March 17 from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Texas State Cemetery, located at 909 Navasota Street in Austin, Texas.

Texas DAR Patriot Monument Rededication To Honor American Revolutionary War Patriots who died in Texas

Sunday, March 17, 2024 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 pm.

Texas State Cemetery
909 Navasota Street, Austin, TX

Louis Antoine Andry
Antonia Rosalia de Armas
Simon de Archa
Joseph Antonio Peres Casanova
Adam Cloud
Maria Ana Curbelo
Clemente Delgado
Jacinto Delgado
Leonardo Hypolito de la Garza
Miguel de Gortari
Theophilus Hickman
Francisco Xavier Rodriguez
Tomás Antonio Alvarez Travieso
Joseph Macario Zambrano
Jose Francisco de la Zerda

Sponsored by TXDAR
Daughters of the American Revolution

NATIONAL MEETING IN LAREDO

Proposed Dates:

- Arrival: Thursday, October 31, 2024
- Departure: Sunday, November 3, 2024

Event Highlights:

- Friday Excursion (more details to follow)
- Friday Reception
- Saturday National Meeting
- Sunday Mass at the San Agustín Cathedral



Venue: La Posada Hotel will be the host hotel and the venue for the National Meeting. This charming hotel is located in the original town-site, just across the street from the town plaza and the historic San Agustín Cathedral.

More Photos From the Laredo Parade

Spanish soldiers ready to march



The Fife & Drum Corps at the ready.



Laredo Chapter Dragoons and Banner Carriers



Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez lead the way to the bridge



Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

**Minutes for the meeting held February 7, 2024 at La Fonda Restaurant
Submitted by Secretary Janie Rodriguez**

Officers in Attendance: Governor Joe González, Deputy Governor Liz Perez, Chaplain Joe Weathersby, Treasurer Manny Rodriguez and Secretary Janie Rodriguez

Attendance: Ron Finch, Valerie Finch, Debra Guerra, Jesse Guerra, Jimmy Peet, Joe Perez, Vedia Weathersby, Alex Zamora, Melissa Zamora.

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Governor Joe González. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Joe Weathersby. Valerie Finch led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Governor Joe González announced this month's birthdays and "Happy Birthday" was sung by all!

Treasurer Manny Rodriguez gave a report for January 1, 2024. The Savings account Balance for the beginning of the month of January was \$3,190.23. We received a dividend for \$0.81. End of month total for January in Savings is \$3,191.04. Checking Account balance as of January 1, 2024 was \$8,745.12. Activity for the month of January was as follows: We received 28 memberships totaling \$630.00, 1 petty cash transaction of \$10.00 and the bank dividend for \$0.38. Outgoing funds were Webmaster payment for \$152.88, Fiesta Medal deposit of \$80.00, the purchase of one uniform shirt for \$95.00, Fee for King William Parade application of \$25.00 and petty cash replacement of \$10.00. The end of month balance for January is \$9,022.62. Motion to accept treasurer's report was made by Liz Perez and seconded by Joe Weathersby.

Motion carried. Old business: Governor Joe announced that membership late dues letters have been sent out with good results. Committee Reports: Stamp committee: Manny Rodriguez reported that the deadline to submit letters was at the end of the month of December. The committee is now closed. Scholarship: Deputy Governor Liz Perez gave a presentation of the letters that have been sent to all the History professors at different Universities and the replies with acknowledgements. Scholarships will be granted to Jr and Sr students that have declared to study history. Membership: Chairman Joe Perez reported 53 full members and 22 associate members. Visibility: Joe Weathersby reported that Fiesta Medals had been ordered and are now in production. This should take about six weeks. 150 were ordered and will be sold at \$10.00 per medal.

New Business: Granaderos Soldiers and Drum and Fife corps will be participating in the George Washington parade in Laredo, TX on February 17, 2024. In April we will be at the Folkfest in New Braunfels, King William Parade, and Tejeda Middle School History Fair.

Announcements: The 2024 National meeting in Laredo will take place on October 31, 2024 to November 03, 2024. More details to come.

Program: Joe Perez gave a report on the History of the Drum and Fife Corps.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 by Governor Joe González.





‘KA GARITA and El Quartel/Curatel’

Part I

SPANISH COLONIAL WATCH TOWER,
POWDER HOUSE and BARRACKS

BY
RUEBEN M. PEREZ

In San Antonio, only a few historical landmarks remain standing today recalling the moments in time of historical events and displaying early Spanish Colonial architecture. Many historical structures fell into deterioration on their own and some structures surrendered to man’s greed, or lack of appreciation for preservation. Many of our ancestral roots go back where our families were involved somehow to these structures that no longer exist, such as: Molino Blanco Mill, Veramendi Palace, Casas Reales, early San Fernando Church, and *jacales* or to others still standing such as: the Alamo, Governor’s Palace, Casa Navarro, San Juan and Espada Missions and other missions. San Antonio is fortunate that most of the missions with the exception of one, *Mission San Francisco Xavier de Najera*, have withstood the tests and tribulations of time.

This story of “*La Garita*” and “*El Quartel/Cuartel*” is about three historical structures and their roles in our history. They have disappeared and left only footprints and a few remains. Recent archaeological work has found the location of “*La Garita*”. Another early structure which physically remains today is a pile of rocks and partial wall showing is all the evidence of the “*El Quratel*” location. Although, both have succumbed, their roles were important to San Antonio under Spain, Texas, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the United States and even during the Confederacy. To get the full impact of their history, we will travel back in time to see why they existed, their functions, and what events were occurring at that time. In part II we will get more in depth as to how they relate to San Antonio’s history.

To start the story off, I remember Larry Kirkpatrick giving a presentation at the Granaderos’ meeting on “*La Garita*” being located. After reading a few articles on it, I recalled one of my books entitled *El Quartel/El Curatel* on a similar subject. My interest in both surfaced when I discovered they had been built about the same time, causing me to think about what was going on during this period of history.

INTRODUCTION:

The spread of freedom and independence throughout North America during the 19th century eventually led to the demise of Spain as a colonial power. Sir Fortescue, in a letter to Carlos III in 1783 stated, “This Federal Republic was born a pigmy, it needed the aid and power of two powerful states like Spain and France. The day will come when it will grow up, become a giant and be feared in the Americas and forget the benefits from the two powers and think in its own aggrandizement”.

What Spain feared most, and wanted to avoid, came to fruition, following the American Revolution. Spain's colonization strategy was to establish missions, presidios and civil settlements in the Province of Texas, thus establishing a line of defense to protect their rich mines and ranches. Colonization was slow, growing by only a trickle, reaching to Spanish Los Adaes and Robeline, Louisiana. Northward expansion proved to be fatal as Spanish soldiers were defeated by Indians near Presidio San Luis de Las Amarillas, forcing the Spanish to retreat from the area. With secularization of Los Adaes, the capital of Texas was moved to San Antonio in 1793 and remained as the seat of government for Spain and Mexico until 1827. By 1803, the permanent population of Texas was: 2,500 San Antonio de Bexareños, 618 La Bahiareños, and 770 Nacogdochereños. Spain's problems would continue when Napoleon Bonaparte appointed his brother to the throne of Spain. Meanwhile, the Spanish colonies drifted without adequate administrative or economic support and the tide of independence was spreading rapidly within the Spanish colonies. At this time, Spain's strategy consisted of slowing down the Americans moving into Spanish territories.



1810s

It was becoming more difficult for Spain to sustain its position in North America. As we get ready to enter the 19th century (1800s), what happen next would have an adverse effect in our history. Napoléon seized control of the French government and pressured King Carlos IV to give up East and West Florida and return Louisiana back to France. The *Treaty of San Ildefonso* on Oct 1, 1800, gave Louisiana back to France. The exact boundaries (Neutral Ground) later became a point of contention between the U.S. and Spain.

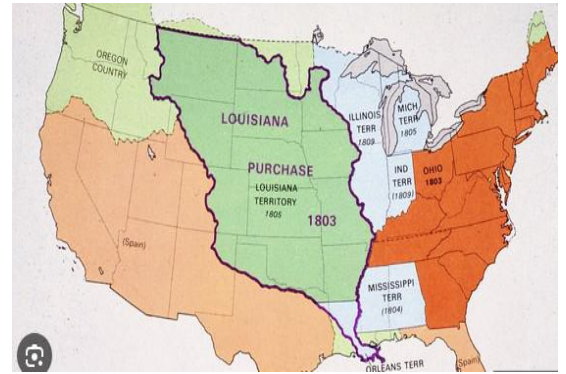
Following the peace accords in Paris, Juan Gassiot, staff Commander in Chief of the Interior Provinces, warned that Spain needed to take action to block the Americans and prevent them from building forts and acquiring territory. Misfortunes continued for Spain when their economy was in ruin, lack of trade, inability to raise revenue and an excessive war debt. Spain's troubles continued when Napoléon Bonaparte appointed his brother Joseph-Napoléon Bonaparte to the Spanish throne in 1808.



With Spain's collapse in Europe in 1790, it was becoming difficult to sustain its position in North America. In time, Spain would eventually lose control over Nueva España (New Spain) in North America, a land over which they reigned for more than **three hundred years**.

The vast and rich territory of New Spain remained unsettled and became appealing to other powers that had an interest. While Spanish colonies drifted, the tide for American colonial imperialism increased as Americans were taking a close look at the Spanish territories in order to gain more land and resources.

Louisiana Purchase – 1803; following the return of Louisiana back to France, Napoléon lost a revolt in Saint-Domingue and, facing warfare with England, he decided to sell Louisiana to the United States in 1803 for a mere \$15 million. The land mass encompassed 530,000,000 acres stretching from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and from the Gulf Mexico to the Canadian border.



Again, the threat put Texas as the line of defense of New Spain's frontier with the western border of the United States and France was longer a threat, but the United States was.

Manifest Destiny took hold after the colonies won their independence and defeated the British again in the War of 1812. Nationalism was on the rise, stemming from a divine inspiration to expand their civilization across the entire North American continent.

The Filibusters Expeditions, an irregular, unauthorized attack from one territory of one state against a friendly state started in the early 1800s. The movement targeted separation of Mexico from Spain. Texas and northern New Spain became a fertile target for filibusters. The filibusters also used it to further trade, exploration, personal profits, and political purposes. The Neutral Ground became the home for illegal refugees, opportunists, thieves, smugglers, and filibusters. Both American and Spanish governments agreed not to allow settlers to move there between 1810 and 1813. "No Man's Land" (Neutral Ground) went to the United States by the Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819.

Nolan Expedition (1791 – 1801)-Four expeditions were made into Texas from neighboring Spanish Louisiana. Due to Nolan's friendship with Gen. James Wilkinson, commander of the forces of the United Forces along the frontier with Spain, most of the expeditions appeared to be for horse-catching and returning them to Louisiana. Nolan spent time exploring and making maps, raising suspicion with Spanish officials. On his last expedition, August 8, 1800, Commander Don Pedro Nava ordered the Texas Governor to arrest Nolan, which occurred on March 21, 1801. A fight ensued and Nolan was killed with a bullet to his head, near present day Waco, Texas. His men were captured and sent to Chihuahua where they were imprisoned. Some historians disagreed as to whether he was a filibuster and had ill intent, but it resulted in discouraging further association, stopped the horse traffic and aroused hatred for the Spanish "dons" by the Americans. Nevertheless, Nolan's expedition has been regarded as the precursor to the Burr Conspiracy, the Gutiérrez-Magee expedition, and the Long's expedition.

Nemesio Salcedo, in a correspondence on June 4, 1804 to Viceroy Dⁿ José de Yturriagaray, stated "Although there are some very old cannons of ancient caliber in the presidios, there are none in the proper condition.... There is no one capable to demonstrate how to work them, other than one old artilleryman...being 100 years old and absolutely deaf" The handwriting was on the wall; **Spain's colonies began to slip away and were deteriorating without the support from Spain.** Mobile was captured without a shot by Americans during the 1812 conflict. A group of rebels marched into Baton Rouge on September 23, 1810 and overpowered the dilapidated Spanish fort. In 1812, Pensacola was under Spanish control.

General Andrew Jackson defeated the Spanish, British, and Creek Native Americans and left the Spanish in control, however, the fortification in Pensacola was never rebuilt by the Spanish, who later turned it over to the Americans in the Adams-Onis Treaty.



Aaron Burr, vice president of the United States from 1801 to 1804, had an important connection with the history of Texas.

That is saying it mildly, to put it bluntly, in 1796, he was proposing the United States seize the Spanish colonies in the Southwest and establish an empire. After leaving office, he became the leader of the conspiracy to invade and overthrow Texas and present day Mexico. His efforts misfired when he told his plans to Gen. James Wilkinson who passed them on to President Jefferson. He was arrested and found guilty of contemplating an invasion of a foreign territory. He remained interested in his plan even up to the Texas Revolution.

Seeds of Independence Spreading through Nueva España and Northern Frontier: The nineteenth century was a time of unrest in New Spain, Texas and San Antonio. Jose Antonio Navarro, in his Memoirs relates: "... since 1807 and 1808, the Spanish nation has appeared to be gasping its last. Through the invasion of that prodigy of conquerors, Napoleon I, the Mexicans began their secret conferences in order to shake off the ominous yoke of the mother country, not because they say it was despoiled and almost absorbed by the formidable conqueror, but because they could not continue to tolerate the taxes of the tyrannous Spanish..." He goes on to state: "...news from the peninsula every day is woeful and alarming...the troops of Napoléon triumphed all sides. Spaniards by the thousand were hastened to swear allegiance to the Emperor of France."



La Segunda Compañía Volante de San Carlos de Parras (Alamo de Parras) – In the early 1800s, rumors of an invasion by the United States spread across the province. A company of 100 Spanish lancers arrived in San Antonio de Bexar in 1803 to bolster the existing local garrison. *La Segunda Compañía Volante de San Carlos de Parras* was suited for frontier service and adapted well.

Designated a "flying company," soldiers of the unit were mounted and armed with a lance (*lanza*), short sword (*espada ancha*), carbine (*escopeta*), and pistol (*pistola*). For protection against arrows, they sometimes wore a padded leather vest (*cuera*) and carried a thick leather shield (*adarga*). The company's original duties included protecting San Antonio and the area around it from Indian raids, as well as escorting travelers, merchants, and officials to places like Monterrey, Monclova, and Saltillo. As the 1800s progressed, their members were called on to intercept, capture or turn back encroaching Americans who were increasingly showing interest in Texas. In addition, they also reinforced the Alamo walls, added battlement, added a guard house, jail, and a large gate of entry.

The construction of a Colonial Spanish structure consisting of a lookout tower and gunpowder storage house (*La Garita*) and another structure barracks (*El Cuartel*) are thought to have been built by the company of soldiers in *La Segunda Compañía Volante de San Carlos de Parra* from 1807 to 1810, according to archival documents.

Movement for Mexican Independence



Courtesy of the Benson Latin American Collection at the University of Texas at Austin



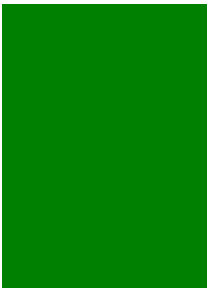
The echoes of the insurgency were heard in the most remote provinces in New Spain following Napoleon's invasion of Spain in 1808. The colonies did not accept the new French ruler and formed societies professing to claim loyalty to French-Spain but supported Spain's Ferdinand VII as their king. The priest of the pueblo of Dolores, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, on September 16, 1810, two hours after midnight, called for a Mass and gave

what we know today as the *Grito de Dolores* (Cry, or Shout of Dolores) calling upon the people to join in protecting the interest of their King Fernando VII (who was held captive by Napoleon) and to revolt against the current government. The call would spark the independence throughout what became Mexico and in the northern province of Texas. The call to arms inspired many, especially the poor and indigenous Indians, and mixed mestizo groups to join Hidalgo to fight the superior Spanish army.

After his first stop at *Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*, Hidalgo affixed an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe to a lance, which became the banner of the revolutionary forces. On January 17, 1811, Father Hidalgo and his insurgent army were finally captured at the bridge of Calderón in the state of Coahuila and he was executed on July 30, 1811. Father Hidalgo is known as the "Father of Mexican independence" and for starting the Mexican War of Independence. The cry for independence rebounded throughout New Spain and lasted to August 24, 1821 when Mexico was finally granted independence. The movement for independence reached San Antonio de Béxar, and would also play a critical role in the struggle and movement of independence from Spain.

Casas Revolt in San Antonio – Juan Bautista de las Casas, a retired militia captain led a revolt in San Antonio in 1811. He arrested Governor Salcedo and proclaimed himself the head of the provisional government. The revolt was crushed by royalist counter-insurgents. Las Casas and his associates were executed and Salcedo was reinstated. His head was sent back to San Antonio from Monclova and displayed to discourage any future rebellion.

Filibusters: Gutiérrez-Magee Expedition (1812 - 1813):



Bernardo Gutiérrez a blacksmith from Nuevo Santander and Augustus Magee formed a force of 130 men at Natchitoches, Louisiana. They entered into Texas under the pretense of making Texas an independent state under the Republic of Mexico. On August 7, 1812, they captured the towns of Nacogdoches, Trinidad de Salcedo, La Bahia, where Magee died of illness. Marching to San Antonio, the Republican Army defeated the Spanish Royalist at **the Battle of Rosillo (Salado) Creek March 19, 1813.**

Once arriving in San Antonio, the Republican Army of the North set up headquarters at *El Cuartel* and issued a declaration on April 6, 1813, adopting the green flag. Gutiérrez declared himself governor of the new state. At the same time, the Spanish Governor and other Spanish officials were executed.

Battle of Alazan Creek: Colonel Ignacio Elizondo and General José Joaquín Arredondo were in charge of the Spanish effort to secure Texas. Arredondo ordered Col. Elizondo to the Frio

River but no further. Elizondo, despite superior orders, continued to march to the outskirts of San Antonio. He underestimated the consequence. The Republican Army attacked early in the morning, inflicting major damage on the men, women, and children who faced a merciless onslaught, regardless of age or sex, for two hours. In haste, Elizondo and remnants of his army retreated to the Rio Grande. Success would be short lived.

Battle of Medina August 18, 1813- José Álvarez de Toledo y Dubois overthrew Gutiérrez, who was exiled to Natchitoches, which ultimately saved his life. Toledo was not trusted by the native population and divided up his army into groups of “Mexicans”, “Anglos”, and “Indians” and planned to surprise the Spanish Army. The Toledo army of 1,400 men was soundly defeated by the Spanish just outside of San Antonio. Fewer than 100 survived. Arredondo’s wrath came to the remaining surviving rebels in San Antonio and other locations. The bodies of the republican soldiers were left on the battlefield until 1822.

The battle had far reaching implications and served as a precursor for the second Texas Revolution. San Antonio was decimated and its population had paid a dear price during this era. Citizens of San Antonio would be subject to horrendous acts of torture; families turned against each other, women endured inhuman acts and lost their husbands, sons, or brothers. Properties were confiscated and owners were labeled as traitors. The soil of Texas was stained as blood flowed on the sandy loam of the land inside and outside of San Antonio. In 1821, Mexico finally achieved independence from Spain (*Guerra de Independencia de México, 16, September 1810 – 27 September 1821*) after numerous conflicts over time. The Declaration of Independence was drafted in 1821.

Our two historical structures, **La Garita** and **El Cuartel** endured, but what would come next would be even more horrendous for San Antonio and the citizens. In Part II we will look at more historical events and the roles our two structures will play.



Primary Reference:

Pérez, Rueben M. Author, Kuykendall, Bonnie, Editor, *The History of El Cuartel (El Cuartel), San Antonio de Béxar*, 2015, Privately Published.

Secondary Reference:

Schwarz, Ted, Thonhoff, Robert H. Editor and Annotator. *Forgotten Battlefield of the Texas Revolution, The Battle of Medina, August 18, 1813*

