



# LA GRANADA



## March 2025



Founding Chapter

San Antonio, TX



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



editor: joe pérez



## We Scored an A+ With Public School Educators



Our chapter was represented by José González, Joe Weathersby, Joe Pérez, Louissette Zurita, Luis Martinez, and Andrew Simmons on Saturday, February 1, as we gave a presentation to Social Studies teachers from the San Antonio and Harlandale Independent School Districts. It was a workshop Sponsored by the NSDAR San Antonio de Béxar Chapter as part of their America 250 Project. You can read more about this on page 4 of this newsletter.

## Gov. González Speaks to DAR Chapter

On February 8, Governor González gave a presentation to the NSDAR Capt. James Jack Chapter titled Bernardo de Gálvez and Spain's Participation in the American Revolution. It was a very engaged audience and they gave a \$25 donation to our chapter. Way to go, Governor!



| <b><u>IN THIS ISSUE:</u></b>                   |            |
|--|------------|
|  | <u>PG.</u> |
| We Scored an A+                                | 1          |
| Gov. González Speaks to DAR                    | 1          |
| Next Meeting                                   | 2          |
| Birthdays & Officers                           | 2          |
| New Member Gravenhorst                         | 3          |
| Passing of John Rodriguez                      | 3          |
| Speaking to Educators                          | 4          |
| Recent Article on the Web                      | 4          |
| Being Noisy in a Library                       | 5          |
| Minutes of February Mtg                        | 5-6        |
| An Unsung Hero of Texas,<br>Dr. Horace Alsbury | 7-11       |

**Next Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 5

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

Presenter:  
Judge Ed Butler

Presentation:  
The Warriors

Judge, author, historian, Edward Butler has served as a judge at the city, county, state, and federal levels, retiring as a Federal Administrative Law Judge. He is a retired Naval Intelligence Commander. He is also an award-winning author of 14 books, many of which are about Bernardo de Gálvez. His latest book, The Warriors, will be available for sale at our meeting. It is a fictional novel based on true events, about the intertwined lives of three men, one of them being Bernardo de Gálvez.



**MARCH BABIES**

**March 3**  
Rueben Perez  
Diane Baird-Barger

**March 6**  
Valerie Finch

**March 7**  
Paul Garcia

**March 8**  
Monica Aguayo Johnson

**March 19**  
Dale John Joseph Leppard

**March 31**  
Louisette Zurita

**Governor**  
José (Joe) González

**Deputy Governor**  
Joe Weathersby

**Treasurer**  
Manny Rodriguez

**Secretary**  
Janie Rodriguez

**Chaplain**  
Charles Carvajal

**Sergeant Major**  
Adam Dominguez



# New Member

We extend a cordial welcome to our newest member, **Ted Gravenhorst**. Ted is the husband of Dama Edna Campos Gravenhorst, who has been a member for several years now. We welcome Ted as a new member and 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 Ted!

## In Memoriam

We mourn the passing of Granadero John Rodriguez, who passed on January 26, 2025 at the age of 91. He was a devoted Catholic who, with his wife, Dama Delia Rodriguez, raised five children. John has 14 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren. His family members who are a part of our chapter are son Manny Rodriguez, daughter-in-law Janie Rodriguez, grandson Manny Rodriguez Jr., and granddaughter Christina Robinson. He enjoyed many hobbies and painted a portrait of Bernardo de Gálvez, which he generously donated to the chapter. He touched many lives and we have lost a kind man. Our condolences go out to his family. May John Rodriguez rest in peace and perpetual light shine upon him. The photos below are L-R: John in his U. S. Air Force uniform, flowers donated by the Houston Chapter of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez, and his portrait of Gálvez, which he presented to the San Antonio Chapter.

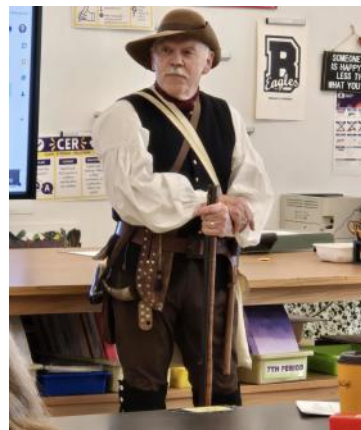


## A Reminder to Renew

If you haven't paid your membership dues, this may be the last newsletter sent to you. We don't want to lose you, so please renew your membership today. Dues are only \$30 a year for Full Membership and just \$15 for Associate Membership. If you haven't already done so, please mail your dues to Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez, P.O. Box 34691, San Antonio TX 78265 or you can pay by Venmo at <https://venmo.com/u/Manuel-Rodriguez-896>. Please support our mission by renewing your membership.

# We Scored an A+ With Public School Educators (Cont.)

Governor González said it best when he said that it was a privilege being invited to present the history of Bernardo de Gálvez and Spain's role in the American Revolution. Thanks go out to Dr. Amy Jo Baker, Dr. Amy Porter (TAMUSA), Dr. Graciela Bell (SAISD Dir. of Staff Development), & Patrick Pyle (SAISD Dir. of Social Studies) for their gracious invitation, ample time allotment for our talk, and a great lunch. The desired objective of being invited to present at public schools appears to be achieved since five (5) faculty attendees asked for us to contact them for scheduling presentations at their respective school campuses.



## Recent Article on the Internet

### A Brief History of Bernardo de Gálvez You Tube Video

This is a very good YouTube video about Bernardo de Gálvez. The link to the article is below.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c75z9JyysqM>



## Being Noisy in a Library

On January 25, Governor Joe González and Granadero Ron Finch gave a presentation at the Mission Branch Library. We were grateful to be invited by the Alamo Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution



(NSDAR) as part of their America 250 program whereby they donated several books honoring patriots. Thank you, Governor González and Granadero Ron Finch and Thank You Alamo Chapter NSDAR!



# Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

**Minutes for the meeting held [February 5, 2025](#) at La Fonda Restaurant  
Submitted by Archivist Stella González**

Attendance: Sally Avila, Charles Carvajal, Debbie Flores, Lucila Flores, Robert Flores, Joe González, Stella González, Edna Campos Gravenhorst, Debra Guerra, Jesse Guerra, Nathan Jones, Nancy Lara, Joe Pérez, Ricky Reyes, Joe Weathersby, Vedia Weathersby.

Guest: Carol Hawkins

.....  
The meeting was called to order at 7:23pm by Governor Joe Gonzalez.

Invocation: After a moment of silence honoring John Rodriguez, the invocation was given by Chaplain Joe Weathersby.

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Jesse Guerra.

Minutes from January 2025: Joe Weathersby moved to approve the Minutes as written in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by Joe Pérez. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Due to the death of the treasurer's father, the treasurer was not in attendance. Joe González reported that the viewing and rosary were taking place that same

evening, Wednesday February 5, with the funeral Mass on Thursday, February 6, at 10am at St. Gregory's Catholic Church.

Joe González reported the following: For January 2025, after all expenses, deposits and interest paid, our Savings Account balance is \$18,024.13. Our Checking account balance is \$14,165.58. Our total accounts are \$32,187.71. Vida Weathersby moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Robert Flores seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Birthdays: Joe González read the list of February birthdays and all attending sang "Happy Birthday."

Old Business: Joe González reported that the Granaderos National Membership had voted at the November National Meeting in Laredo that each chapter and the national office should obtain their own legal standings as Non-Profit Organizations. Our San Antonio chapter has obtained professional services to do so. Those services and all government filing fees total \$1,600, an amount available in our treasury. Stella González moved that the chapter authorize payment of the \$1,600; Debra Guerra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Education: Joe González, Joe Weathersby, Joe Pérez, Luis Martinez, Louissette Zurita and Andrew Simmons attended a Teacher Workshop with several local school district personnel. The Granaderos were invited by Dr. Amy Jo Baker. Our information was well accepted. Debbie Flores will handle all school contacts and scheduling to begin in Fall 2025.

Scholarship: No report.

Membership: Joe Pérez reported one new member and one potential new member.

National Meeting: Ron Finch and Melissa Zamora have sent out a survey by email to all Chapter members about their potential involvement in the many aspects and plans for the Golden Jubilee National Granaderos meeting to be held in San Antonio in November 2025. They ask that all members please fill out and return the survey.

New Business: Charles Carvajal was sworn in as the Chapter's new Chaplain.

Announcements:

Our Drum and Fife Corp and our Soldados will travel to Laredo later this month to participate in that city's annual George Washington's Birthday ceremonies.

Next month's speaker will be Judge Ed Butler. Joe Weathersby reminded all that 2025 Fiesta medals are now on sale.

Guest Speaker: Member Joe Pérez presented a history of currency in the United States, which was based on the Spanish Real: "Two bits, four bits, six bits, a dollar."

Joe González reported that Manny and Janie Rodriguez wished to thank all who extended condolences and prayers for Manny's father.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.



Governor González swearing in Charlie Carvajal as our new Chaplain



## *An Unsung Hero of Texas: Dr. Horace Arlington Alsbury*

*By Rueben M. Perez*

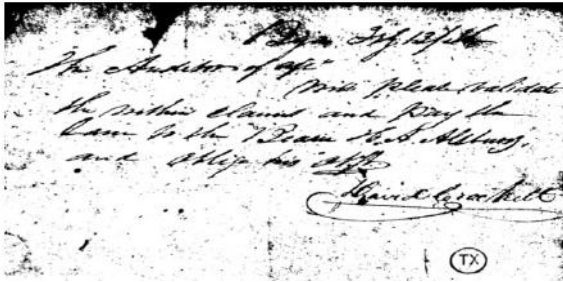
“Finding his ranks suddenly reduced to approximately four hundred men by treachery, desertion, and bribery, Canales fled hurriedly in the direction of Marin 25 miles to the north. Canales, himself, proceeded in advance, “with a company of Life Guards commanded by the notorious **Dr. Horace (Horatio Alexander) Alsbury** of San Antonio.” Note: Antonio Canales was Secretary of War and Commander of the Army of the Republic of the Rio Grande, capital, Laredo, Texas.

Dr. Alsbury appears all over the map during the Texas Revolution, Republic of Texas, and Mexican-American War. As we celebrate Texas Independence on March 2<sup>nd</sup> we search further into the time capsule to find out, who was this unsung hero of Texas? The answer is simple for me, he was my great-great step-grandfather, married to Juana Navarro Veramendi Perez Alsbury (my g-g grandmother) and daughter of Jose Angel Navarro, Alcade of San Antonio, 1835. Dr. Horace A. Alsbury was born in Kentucky, 1805, and arrived in Texas around 1823. As to whether he was a medical doctor, remains unknown at this time. He had mastered the command of the Spanish language and referred to himself as Horacio and converted to Catholicism. He received land from Stephen F. Austin’s *Old Three Hundred* along with his brothers James and Charles Alsbury. He had another brother Young Perry Alsbury, also, who participated in Texas Independence. To describe Horace Arlington Alsbury, one would say he advocated the cause of Independence, a person who involved himself with the politics of the day, expressed his beliefs openly and volunteered his time to military service in one capacity or another. He would write volumes to important persons in Texas and frequently traveled between Mexico and the Province of Texas. During a trip to Mexico, he visited Stephen F. Austin in prison on January 1834 and carried two miniature portraits of Austin back to his family. Alsbury was the first Paul Revere of Texas after attending a legislature convention of Coahuila and Texas in 1835 and said in an address and in a famous handbill forewarning, “**TO THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS**” warning of the impending desire of Santa Anna’s to drive the Anglo-Americans out of Texas. Alsbury provides the information to the people dated August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1835, Columbia, signed and dated by Horatio A. Alsbury [sic].”

**MUSTER ROLL BATTLE OF BEXAR 1835:** Dr. Alsbury joined Capt. John York’s Company of the Texas Republican Army during the Siege of Bexar from early October to December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1835. He enlisted as a private. In January of 1836, he married Juana Navarro Veramendi Peres prior to leaving the Alamo as a courier on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1836. With the advancing army of Santa Anna heading to Bexar, Alsbury left his new wife and son entrusted to James Bowie, now his step brother-in-law. Alejo Perez (my great grandfather) was under a year old and was the baby of the Alamo. “Lindley states in Alamo Traces, “Horace Alsbury, was a member of the Texian army, and departed for Gonzales immediately to recruit reinforcements and to warn

the settlers that the Mexican Army was outside of Bexar.” Alsbury joined Juan Sequin and Dr. Sutherland at the Cibolo River before traveling to Gonzales.

**CLAIM BY DAVID CROCKETT TO PAY H. A. ALSBURY- FEBRUARY 1836:** A letter signed by David Crockett to pay Horace Alsbury, date February 13, 1836 is found in Texas State Archives.



CLAIM BY DAVID CROCKETT TO  
PAY H. A. ALSBURY- FEBRUARY  
1836: signed by David Crockett to  
Horace Alsbury, found in Texas  
State Library and Archives.

The following is a communiqué from Alsbury requesting supplies for the Texas Army, acting on behalf of Colonel Neil at Gonzales:

Mr. George W. Davis

You will Please to issue rations for fifty men for ten days of flour, sugar, Indian meal, and dried beef.

Gonzales March the 6--1836

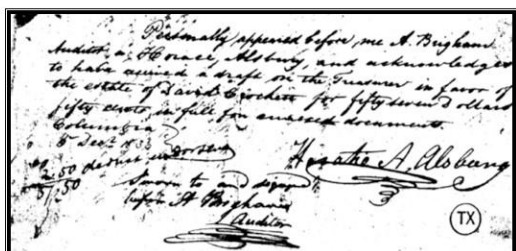
H. A. Alsbury

By Order Acting aid to Col. J. C. Neil

This would be an eventful day for Juana Alsbury, since March 6th was the day of the fall of the Alamo.

**BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO:** Horace Alsbury would proceed on to join the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Volunteers Cavalry/Spy Company. The volunteers listed for the destruction of Vince’s Bridge would include Young Perry Alsbury and volunteers to hunt for Santa Anna included *Horatio Alexander Alsbury*. Santa Anna and his cavalry attempted their retreat by way of Vince’s Bridge, not knowing that this bridge had been destroyed by Deaf Smith on the morning of that day. Capt. Karnes then called on *Dr. Alsbury*, who spoke the Spanish language, to call out to Santa Anna in the thicket where Santa Anna was hiding and say to him if he would come out and give himself up, we would take him a prisoner and spare his life. The soldiers eventually captured Santa Anna on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, unaware of who he was, since he was disguised in a soldier uniform. Seeing Santa Anna captured, they recognized him, and the Mexican prisoners yelled out, “El Presidente!” Alsbury was a member of Henry W. Karnes' company at San Jacinto and was one of the 154 Masons engaged in the fighting. After the battle, he joined in the surveillance of Mexican troops retreating from San Jacinto toward La Bahía and Mexico. He then returned to San Antonio in May 1836 to join his family, along with his father-in-law, and Dr. Bernard at the Calavero Ranch in April of 1836.

**ALSBURY THE AUDITOR FOR DAVID CROCKETT’S ESTATE:**



Texas Library/Archives

In the winter of 1836, Horace Alsbury was involved with Crockett’s estate as shown by documents below. The document for the estate of David Crockett was filed by H.A. Alsbury on 5 Dec’r 1836, examined same date, admitted to Audit for fifty-seven 50/100 Dollars for Crockett’s sale of two rifles to the government.



1838: According to Maverick's diary, Dr. Alsbury and Juana Navarro Perez Alsbury accompanied her to the Alamo grounds in the fall of 1838. After the visit, she had sketched the grounds of the Alamo that remained unknown until published by a descendant of Maury Maverick. In the same year, Alsbury also was in touch with business leaders and Federalist traders in Mexico and wrote about the success of business enterprises in the South Texas region. He would later involve himself with an attempted fight to establish a separate Republic.

1838-1839: In 1838, Colonel Henry Karnes organized two volunteer companies in San Antonio to help fight the Comanche Indians. In the diary of Miles Squier Bennet, he names the officers of Captain Franks' company as: George M. Dolson, First Lieutenant, John King, Second Lieutenant, and *Horatio Alex Alsbury* as Orderly Sergeant.

1838: Dr. Alsbury and Judge Baker worked as Indian agents for the Republic of Texas. After receiving information on a large party of Indians, Alsbury and Baker were appointed, on a temporary basis, to go up to the Pedernales and meet with the Indians to determine their intentions and their desire to enter into a peace agreement with the Republic of Texas.

They met with the Comanche Indians on a peace mission, but departed abruptly, with both men barely escaping with their lives.

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS JOINT RESOLUTION & REPUBLIC CLAIMS: Following his services during the Siege of Bexar and Battle of San Jacinto, Alsbury received military reimbursements for services rendered. The Congress of the Republic of Texas awarded him the following:

#### JOINT RESOLUTION

For the relief of H. A. Alsbury

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Texas, in Congress assembled. That the Auditor be and he is hereby authorized and required to audit the claims of H. A. Alsbury, allowing him the pay and rations of Major of Infantry, for the term of sixty-three days. (deducting twenty dollars already paid,) which shall be in full for his services as Interpreter for the post of Bexar, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five and thirty-six.

JOHN M. HANSFORD, Speaker of the House of Representatives,

S. H. EVERITT, President pro tem. of the Senate.

Approved. December 29, 1838

Mirabeau B. Lamar

DONATED LAND GRANT BY THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS: The Republic of Texas, for services rendered, also awarded Dr. Alsbury 640 acres for his services provided during the Battle of San Jacinto. The survey notes read, "survey #1385, Section 6, County of Bexar on the waters of the Attascosa about 17 miles sw of San Antonio, dated Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1855."

DEEDS OR MISDEEDS OF MEN: DEEDS OR MISDEEDS OF MEN: The following is an account verbatim from San Jacinto Museum of History – Biographies, as to the disposition of Deed 4114:

"Dr. Alsbury received Bounty Certificate No. 4114 for 640 acres of land for serving in the army." In the file containing Bounty Certificate No. 4114 issued in the name of Dr. Alsbury there is a deed signed at Brazoria December 4, 1836, in which he transfers his rights to all head right, bounty and Donation Certificates for land he was entitled to receive from the

Government of Texas to Robert Peebles for \$5,000.00, including “one fourth of a league of land to which I am entitled to receive by virtue of my having married a native Mexican Woman.” The discrepancy seen in the deed is the fact that Dr. Alsbury was not present or in the country when the lawsuit came up in February, 1846 but was involved in the Mexican – American war, thus giving rise to the issue as to the legitimacy.

**1840: THE REPUBLIC OF THE RIO GRANDE:** The fourth episode in attempting to establish a separate republic within what was the Province of Texas failed like some of the others. The only Republic to remain was the Republic of Texas. The Republic of the Rio Grande was short-lived from January 17 to November 6, 1840. The attempts were led by General Antonio Canales Rosillo and held many of the same similarities causing the Republic of Texas to break away.



The Federalist forces advocated an independent entity of the northern states of Mexico: Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas and declared independence on January 17, 1840 from the control of Santa Anna’s Centralist government in Mexico City.

Left: Flag of the Republic of the Rio Grande

Being of an adventurous spirit, Alsbury sided with General Canales and served as his bodyguard during the battles between the Centralist and Federalist Mexican troops. Alsbury, again barely escapes with his life and returns to Texas.

**1841: ALSBURY PETITION AS GUARDIAN FOR ALEJO PERES:** Probate records show, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September 1841, Juana Alsbury filed a petition to the Bexar County Probate Court. The petition was to legally have her husband, H. A. Alsbury, be appointed as the legal Guardian of her infant son, Alejo by her former husband, Alejo Peres deceased, whereupon it was ordered by the Court that said Alsbury give Bond in the sum of three hundred dollars.

**1842:** Alsbury would serve as Secretary for the City of San Antonio. He would successfully bid for the position of City Secretary. This would later prove to be a mistake as he would be captured and taken to a prison in Mexico.

**1842: PEROTE PRISON FOR ALSBURY AND OTHER SAN ANTONIO OFFICIALS:**

Be what it may, Alsbury’s fate would again make a dramatic turn and the cold northern winds would hit the city again. San Antonio would be attacked, this time by General Adrian Woll, who captured the entire bar and lawyers in attendance on the District Court, (52 all together) then in session, and held them as prisoners of war. Eventually, Santa Anna would release the remaining surviving prisoners one who would be *Dr. Alsbury*.

**1845: LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS:** Dr. Alsbury wrote the following letter to the President of the Republic of Texas, Mr. Anson Jones: The letter is as follows: *“Bejar, 23d Feb., 1845 - Sir, -- I arrived at this city a few days since, from Mexico, where I have been so long confined in prison. I came with a passport from Gen. Arista, granted me on condition that I would see you, and bear you a message; but owing to my having been robbed of my horses on the route, I find that I cannot reach Washington, and have the satisfaction so much desired by me of conversing with you. Since my liberation last year from*

*chains and suffering, I have been with my family in the village of Candela, in the Department of Coahuila, and until the late change of Government have not been permitted to leave that Department. .... Should this letter be published, it will not only expose myself and family to much suffering, but endanger my life..... Should it be the wish of the Government to send any communication to Gen. Arista by me, by sending it to Corpus Christi by the 5<sup>th</sup> of next month, it will be conveyed. I shall return by that route for safety, as large bodies of Indians have been sighted. .... H.A. ALSBURY”*

What follows is Juana Alsbury’s petition to the House and Senate of Texas stating in 1846 he accompanied the American Army across the Rio Grande during the war and was killed by the Mexicans. No one knows what really happened.

To my surprise the location of Dr. Alsbury’s remains was made known in a book I accidentally ran across, by Samuel C. Reid, Jr., entitled *The Scouting Expeditions of McCulloch’s Texas Rangers: or, the Summer and Fall Campaign of the Army of the United States in Mexico – 1846*. Reid wrote the book in 1859 and with the following excerpts from a soldier diary to Maj. General Z. Taylor. Without his journal, the whereabouts of what ever happened to *Dr. Horace A. Alsbury* would have remained unknown in the vaults of time. Now, for the rest of the story.

THE FINAL RESTING PLACE OF DR. HORACE ALSBURY: *“Provisions had run very low, and being told that a party had just started for Mier, we rode on to overtake them. The road from this to Mier lies over a rolling barren waste, with occasional high hills. Between Marin and Serralvo, we found the skeletons of one or two men who had been murdered by the rancheros, one of which was supposed to have been that of Dr. Alsbury, a sutler. This part of the road towards Mier was also said to be very dangerous.”*

Conclusion: Never in my wildest imagination did I think I would get an answer as to where his remains would be found, other than keep researching. Again, Juana Navarro Peres Alsbury is without a husband and Alejo, without a father. One has to wonder what happened to the notorious Dr. Alsbury as he faded out of the journals of history. What has now been known is where he is resting. Dr. Alsbury has earned the honor of being one of Texas’ Most Heroic Heroes and dedicated to the cause of Texas freedom, but receives little credit. On this same note, I was able to find Juana Navarro Veramendi Perez Alsbury’s resting place through extensive researching and putting the facts together. I have chosen to let her lie in peace, known only to God. She represents what so many struggled with during this time period. Many of the untrue accounts regarding her would be refuted and her name would be embedded in the journals of history as a famous Texas Tejana. Both Juana and Dr. Alsbury are my great, great ancestors whom I have finally come to know, love, and admire. I end this story with my quote I often use, “Their stories will be told and we will honor those who came before us, for we are now their voices”.

References can be found in:

Perez, Rueben M., *LEST WE FORGET: A TRIBUTE to THOSE WHO FORGED THE WAY*, Edited  
by Bonnie Kuykendall.

1<sup>st</sup> Place, Texas State Genealogical Society