



LA GRANADA



October 2020



**Order of Granaderos
y Dans de Gálvez
San Antonio Chapter**



www.granaderos.org



Granadero Manuel Fernando Lizcano

One of our brother Granaderos was called to eternal peace on Thursday, September 3, 2020 in San Antonio. Manuel Lizcano has been a member of our chapter for several years as has his wife, Dama Olga Lizcano. He was born in 1938 in San Antonio, Texas, and passed at the age of 81. He attended Sacred Heart Elementary School and later graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1956. He started his college years at St. Mary's University and later graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1967 with a degree in Math &

Engineering, earning his professional engineering license the following year. Before he graduated, Manuel fell in love and later married Olga Garcia in 1965.

Manuel worked for well-known engineering firms such as Travis Braun as well as Ford, Powell & Carson. He later started his own company as Lizcano Consulting Engineers. His company specialized in mechanical, electrical, air conditioning and heating & refrigeration. Lizcano Consulting Engineers served the business community for over 35 years. Manuel also served as the Emeritus-Historian and Past President for the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating & Air-Conditioning Engineers.

Manuel had several interests such as history, reading, traveling, Broadway musicals and bike riding. He used to teach bicycle safety classes and rode his bicycle from San Antonio to Corpus Christi as part of a group, the San Antonio Wheelmen.

Manuel enjoyed telling jokes. He often cited among his favorite memories as taking trips with his wife, Olga, to Mexico, Spain and France.

We have received a card from Olga Lizcano thanking us for our prayers during this time of grief. May Manuel rest in peace and may we forever remember him as a friend and a fellow Granadero.

IN THIS ISSUE:

	<u>PG.</u>
Granadero Manuel Lizcano	1
Next Meeting/Birthdays	2
Chapter Officers	2
Hisp. Museum of Amer. Rev.	3
Instructions From Gálvez	3
Humor in the Time of Covid	4
Class In Session	4
Spain, Gálvez and Saint Gabriel, Part 1	5-9
September Meeting Minutes	10

Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 7

8:00 p.m. via Zoom

MeetingLink

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89437610197>

Speaker:

Manuel Rodriguez, Jr.

Presentation

College Thesis On

Spain in the

American Revolution

Please join us at our October meeting online at the link shown above. Granadero Manuel Rodriguez, Jr. will give a presentation about his college thesis on Spain in the American Revolution. Please note the start time of 8:00 p.m.

Sign in and say "Hi" to fellow members you haven't seen in a while. We have our own Zoom account and will conduct online meetings until it is safe to have meetings in person at the restaurant.



**2020 Dues-Paying
Members With
Birthdays in October**

Oct. 2

Jimmy Peet

Oct. 4

Roland Salazar

Oct. 7

Roland Cantu

Oct. 16

George Aguayo

Oct. 24

Joe Perez

Oct. 31

Janie Rodriguez

Governor

Joe Perez

Deputy Governor

Alex Zamora

Treasurer

Manny Rodriguez

Secretary

Briana Perez

Drum Major

Ricardo Rodriguez

Chaplain

Joe González

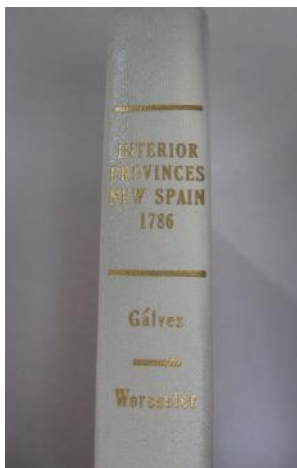
Hispanic Museum of the American Revolution

Granadero Michael Cristian has created a Facebook page called Hispanic Museum of the American Revolution. The purpose of the page is to raise awareness about Hispanics who participated in the American Revolution. "Hispanics are never mentioned or properly recognized for their brave participation in the Revolutionary War",



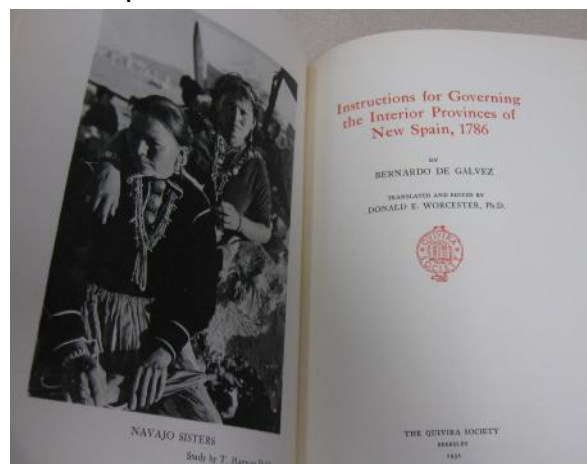
Michael says. "Hispanic involvement in our War of Independence is not taught in our schools. The Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia has only a small mention of the Hispanic contribution", he concludes. Michael states that the new page is a beginning that he hopes will grow and create enthusiasm that will eventually lead to the creation of a museum. From small seeds do mighty oaks grow, so keep going, Michael.

Instructions From Gálvez



Granadero Jason Bourgeois, Ph.D, is a Cataloging Librarian at Our Lady of the Lake University. He noticed a book in the University's Sueltenfuss Library Texana collection that he knew would be of great interest to our membership. The book, titled *Instructions for Governing the Interior Provinces of New Spain, 1786* is written by Bernardo de Gálvez. It is translated into English and edited by Donald E. Worcester, Ph.D. This edition was published by the Quivira Society in Berkeley, California, in 1951 and contains text in both English and Spanish.

It is a rare book indeed since only 500 copies were printed. It can only be viewed at the library and can not be checked out. However, the library is currently closed to the public due to the pandemic. This book can give insight into the early Spanish administration of a large swath of land from Coahuila to California in the late 1700s. The area covers what are currently northern Mexico and the Southwest of the United States.



Humor in the time of Covid

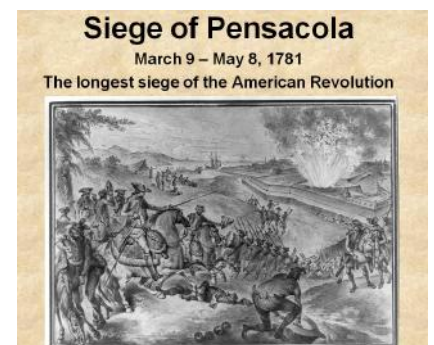
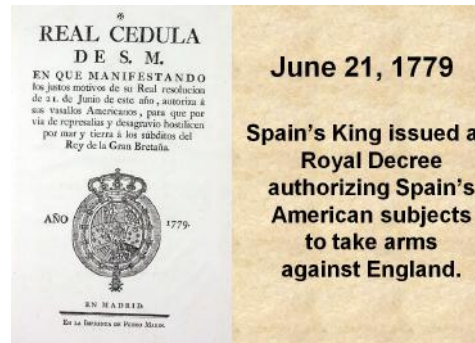
If, during the pandemic, the King of Spain is quarantined on the royal jet, would you say that the reign in Spain is mainly in the plane?

From Neil Calnan of the Houston Chapter



CLASS IN SESSION

On Wednesday, September 15, Governor Joe Perez gave a PowerPoint presentation, via Zoom, to students of Granadero Bill Bowlin's St. Philip's College history class. The presentation was titled Spain's Participation in the American Revolution. The students had excellent questions throughout the lesson. One student thanked Joe for the "awesome" presentation. Good job, Joe. And *thank you* Bill Bowlin for having Joe as a presenter. Below are images for some of the slides in Joe's presentation.





Gálvez at the Siege of Pensacola.
Painting by Augusto Ferrer-Dalmau

The Beginning: Spain, Gálvez, and St. Gabriel Part I

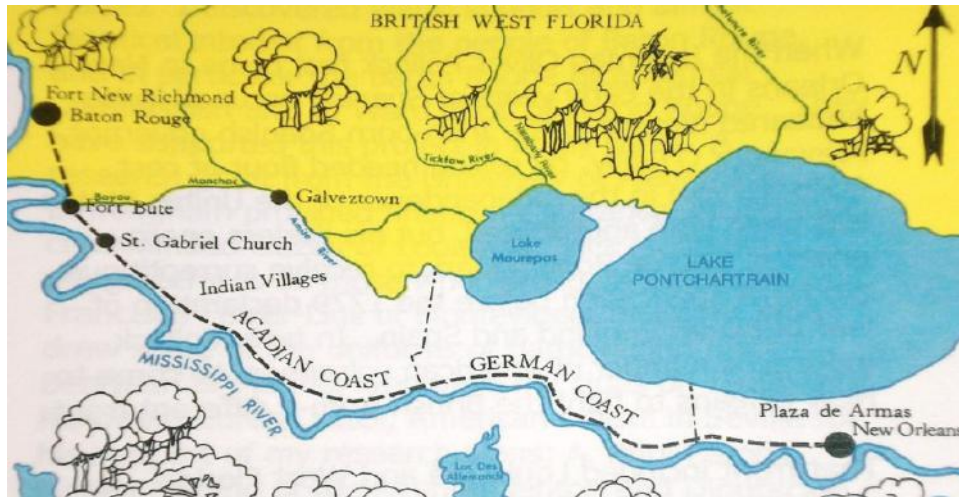
*By Rueben M. Perez
Edited by
Clifford Normand*

To walk upon the soil our forefathers once walked on and see the mighty Mississippi River as it meanders down to New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico leaves a lasting impression that stays forever. I had this privilege when writing the book, *Forgotten Chapters of American History, Spain, Gálvez, and Islenós* and visited Granadero Clifford Normand of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It was a trip I will never forget, visiting the historical St. Gabriel Church and other historical sites. Along the way, the mighty Mississippi River was always with us. I gained a better understanding of the lay of the land and tried to visualize what it may have looked like during the time of Bernardo de Gálvez. Granadero Clifford Norman was a perfect tour guide as we drove around visiting the sites and he explained what I was seeing, farmland today versus what the forested land looked like when the Spanish arrived.

It was hard to comprehend what it must have looked like in the past. Time passes on, the characters for my story are gone, and unable to tell their stories, experiences or what hardships they went through. As they look at us from the past, we now stand where they once were. Someday, we will be where they are now. To learn from our forefathers, we can only hope we can be as strong and brave as they were, to fight for the things we believe to be our inalienable rights to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. Our forefathers fought for freedom of religion for us to enjoy and they entrusted a divine Providence to build this great country. As we look at the past, we learn from it and continue to build on it, not destroy it. The mighty Mississippi River continues to flow downstream, lazily at times but it gets out of control and ravages the land, levees, and engulfs structures and graves of those from the past.

This is a story about a part of history that played an important role during the American Revolution when Spain helped defeat the British, a forgotten chapter of American History and seldom told about two forts held by two divided countries, separated by Bayou Manchac and about 400 feet apart. The forts that once stood are gone, however, it is where Gálvez had his first win against the British. About four miles away, a church that has weathered the elements of time and still stands today is the Old St. Gabriel Church, downstream on the Mississippi River from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The Church has been tested by time and was moved to save it from the ravages of the river. A new church has been built but the old church still proudly and majestically stands. As we get into our story, we will discuss Spain entering the

war against Great Britain in Part I. In Part II we will find Gálvez preparing for war, the Post at St. Gabriel, the British Fort Bute, and the battle of Manchac. In Part III we will discuss the historical significances of St. Gabriel Church. Interestingly, the question arises: Is St. Gabriel the church where Governor Bernardo de Gálvez prayed the night before the battle of Manchac? So, let's get it going.



Drawing depicting Fort Bute in English territory. Bayou Manchac divided the British fort and Fort San Gabriel de Manchac that provided a passage to Lake Pontchartrain and the Gulf of Mexico.

The British built Fort Bute or Manchac Post named for the Earl of Bute, designed to hold supplies and a garrison of up to two hundred men and had artillery for defense. The Spanish countered by building Fort San Gabriel de Manchac (near present day Saint Gabriel, Louisiana, in Iberville Parish) in 1767 on the opposite side of Bayou Manchac. It was completed in 1768 and was fitted with four small cannons.

SETTING THE STAGE:

Often left out of American history books are the contributions made by Spain in the winning of the American Revolution. France ceded Louisiana to Spain in the secret Treaty of Fontainebleau in 1762, thus making the Louisiana Territory the eastern frontier of New Spain, which also had regained Cuba. Following the Treaty of Paris in 1763, New Spain occupied much of the "New World" west of the Mississippi up to the arctic snows. This included present day México, Central America, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and South America, with the exception of Brazil. The British on the other hand, claimed ownership of the 13 colonies, parts of Canada, Bermuda, Bahamas, Jamaica, Florida and West Florida. In addition, the British had forts up the Mississippi River starting at Manchac and Natchez. In the beginning of the American Revolution Spanish assistance was being provided to the American Colonies in secrecy with France through a third party. Both the French and Spanish Courts secretly gifted two million "livres tournaises", one million from each country by laundering money into a fictitious company. Spain had already started her assistance to the colonies prior to the writing of the Declaration of Independence. This aid was in the form of guns, ammunition, and various supplies. In June 1776, the American Revolutionary War had just begun between the American Thirteen Colonies and the Kingdom of Great Britain that turned into a global conflict.

Skirmishes between the colonists and British troops started in April 1775 in Lexington and Concord. This would give rise to:

“the shot heard ‘round the world.”



The time was quickly approaching that war with Britain was imminent for Spain. Spain was allied with France through the Bourbon Family Compact, and both countries were eager to retaliate against Great Britain, which had defeated these countries in the Seven-Years War and resulted in the Treaty of Paris of 1763.

SPAIN’S INVOLVEMENT-DISCUSSION:

Spain ruled one of the most geographically extensive empires in the history of the world. Being a colonial power itself, Spain found itself in a dilemma whichever way it went, it had little to gain and much to lose, including her own colonies. Britain was a bitter enemy and, if they defeated France, could become the world’s leading dynasty. Spain’s contributions, both militarily and economically early in the American Revolution, made a significant impact in aiding the continental army. In addition, the engagements between Spain and Britain, forced the British to overstretch her forces and fight multiple fronts all around the world. The truth of the matter was that Great Britain could not defend her interests and possessions everywhere. Each location of engagement meant spreading out and distributing manpower, ships, supplies, food lines and necessities to fight.

Spain first attempted to stay out of the American Revolutionary War, knowing the Bourbon Family Compact might force her to join with France through mediation. However, that attempt failed and on April 12, 1779, the Spanish State Minister, Count of Floridablanca, and French Ambassador, the Count of Montmorin, signed the *Treaty of Aranjuez*. Spain’s intent to enter the war was more than siding with the French. An objective was to eliminate Great Britain’s presence along the Mississippi River, the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean where Britain had smuggling activities going on and was raiding Spanish possessions, especially treasures being carried by Spanish fleets. In addition, the loss of Minorca and Gibraltar still presented a thorn to Spain. Britain was thus facing several fronts fighting the Thirteen Colonies including a front on the Western frontier being fought by George Rogers Clark. The Gulf of Mexico and Mississippi River would be critical to the American Revolution and even became important factors in the war. Without Spain’s participation, along with Bernardo de Gálvez’s intervention, the American dream of independence could have been diminished. By the British maintaining several operational fronts, it drastically reduced the employment of British forces that possibly could have suppressed the insurgents in the Thirteen Colonies. The Treaty of Paris, signed on February 10, 1763, gave Spain the Isle of Orleans that included New Orleans and rights to share the use of the Mississippi River with Britain.



The drums were beating for War

SPAIN ENTERS THE WAR:

On May 18, 1779, Spain notified the colonies that war would soon be declared on Great Britain. Spain then entered into the American Revolution on June 21, 1779. Orders went out on July 8th to the colonial subjects to engage in hostilities against the British, including the British on the Mississippi, Mobile, and at Pensacola. Bernardo de Gálvez refrained from announcing the second proclamation publicly until later. In the meantime, Gálvez had secretly been preparing for an offense against the British and ordered the men at Bayou Lafourche to form companies out of the local militia and called the men to active duty. This was a practice of local militias that O'Reilly had begun in September 1769. This unit was also intended to prevent the British from using Bayou Lafourche to reach the Mississippi.

Shortly after the war started with Britain, Gálvez advised Louis Judice (Captain of the German Coast militia and commandant of the Ascension District) of his intention to lead forces upriver to expel British forces along the Mississippi River and to have the militia ready to join him. An unexpected hurricane hit New Orleans on August 18th. Gálvez planned to start his expedition on the 22nd day of August 1779; however, he had to delay his departure until August 27th. Preparations were well under way for the movement to Manchac, but a hurricane hit with such violence that, within three hours, it destroyed a large number of houses in New Orleans, destroyed crops, killed cattle, but, worst of all, sunk some of the vessels of his fleet, excepting the frigate *El Volante*. Governor Gálvez ordered all the boats which had been spared and those raised out of the river to accompany the army up the river.

In further correspondence Gálvez states: "That he has had the satisfaction of the *El Volante* being found, although without the masts, and also the Brig *Kaulican* and the *Baliza* without any damage. I have immediately given instructions to the commanders to the effect that they send me at once all the bigger canoes that can be found in their respective districts...I find myself without anything in which to send the baggage, artillery, and so forth, to go up to Manchac."

Gálvez's correspondence on August 19th to Diego José Navarro, Captain General of Havana, stated that he has two small canoes that seat four men. He could go and find out what happened to his ships after the hurricane. Gálvez stated that he has ordered all of the commanders not to execute any movements and went on to state the Englishmen had no vessels lost from the storm, they have their people, forts, artillery and ammunition. Gálvez goes on that he is unsure if he even has a vessel and due to the hardships, he requested from the Court all assistance they can give him. Of a noteworthy statement, Gálvez continued, "...although it has not terrified me, I am however, with my hands tied up, and without finding some means that can assist my desires of complying with the orders of the King. May God, keep you many years, Yours very truly, Bdo. De Gálvez (rubic) New Orleans, August 17, 1779."

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bern. de Gálvez" with a large flourish at the end.

Bernardo de Gálvez continued ..., “there was absolutely not a vessel or canoe left in the river, others, half broken and useless, were in the woods; and finally, others whose whereabouts are unknown, the town is a pitiful spectacle. There is hardly one house that is not destroyed, and many are ruined crops, cattle, stores, and all is lost.”

The next part of Gálvez’s correspondence to Navarro justified why the local militia could not participate in the campaign of Manchac and Baton Rouge. This shows how concerned Gálvez was towards the soldiers and citizens: “Although I would not like to give them up, it would even be impossible for me to take the first step, not only due to the absolute lack of boats and canoes, which are lost, but because the militiamen I had in view, who are desolated, and who in their majority have taken refuge with their families, among the ruins of their homes and even underneath the carts, I believe that they would rather let themselves be sacrificed, than to be separated from their unfortunate parents, wives, sons and brothers left to grief and to the roughness of the weather in the fields.” He goes on: ““But knowing that the critical situation in which I find myself obliges me to make use of all means and resources that can be imagined to remedy to some extent the inexplicable loss that has been suffered, and having knowledge of the ruinous condition of the people upon whom I had counted, besides feeling that it would be the **greatest inhumanity to try to make them follow me by force**, it is believed that doing so, it would not only result in an excitement in their families, but they themselves, violated, (in spite of the promises of their good will and loyalty), would decide not to oppose the Englishmen with the only condition that they would let them alone with their families.”

Again, Gálvez demonstrates his compassion for the people of New Orleans who were faced with food shortages after the hurricane, “As regard to food, I cannot help in any way; rather, fear in that the colony would suffer some hunger, I have taken the precaution of instructing all commanders of the whole jurisdiction to the effect that they have their respective inhabitants to plant at once a certain amount of potatoes and peas, considering this today as a recourse of first necessity.”

Preparations were in the making for Gálvez and his army to make the march up the Mississippi River to fight the British at Fort Bute.

~ TO BE CONTINUED ~

Order of Granados y Danas de Gálvez

Minutes for the meeting held [September 2, 2020](#) via Zoom on the internet
Submitted by Joe Perez

Attendance:

Sally Avila, Jason Bourgeois, Charlie Carvajal, Stella González, Joe González, Joe Perez, Janie Rodriguez, Manny Rodriguez, Manny Rodriguez Jr., Jesse O. Villarreal Sr., Melissa Zamora, Alex Zamora

- The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Governor Joe Perez.
- The Invocation was given by Chaplain Joe González.
- Jesse Villarreal had a flag on screen and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Joe Perez announced birthdays for September. He then showed a few photos and spoke about activities that some of our members participated in recently. He showed a photo of Granadero Jason Bourgeois participating in a 4th of July ceremony in Wimberley, Texas. Joe then showed a photo of himself and Granadero Adam Dominguez on the 4th of July, giving a presentation at the Alamo. The next photo was of Jason Bourgeois participating in the Battle of Medina memorial ceremony in Atascosa County. The final photo showed the home of Honorary Governors General Robert and Victoria Thonhoff where they paid homage to the Battle of Medina by displaying the green flag of the Republican Army of the North as well as the Spanish Burgundy Cross flag.
- Governor Perez asked for Committee Reports, though there hasn't been activity due to the pandemic. Chair Joe González stated that the Education Committee will start meeting again when it is safe to do so. Archivist Stella González reminded everyone to let her know if they have records they would like to have in the group's archives. She also mentioned that Rafael Cavazos has some electronic files for the archives. Visibility Committee Chair Melissa Zamora said that she will look into the cost of making Fiesta medals for us to sell next year as a fund raiser.
- Treasurer Manny Rodriguez gave the Treasurer's Report for August. We had a Beginning Balance of \$4,147.69. We had no expenses for the month. We had income of \$40.36 from Associate Membership dues (\$15), sale of a Granadero blazon (\$25) and interest on our account (36-cents) which left an Ending Balance of \$4,188.05.
- Joe gave a reminder of our National Meeting, which will be held via Zoom this year on Saturday, November 7.
- Joe Perez then gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Gálvez portrait.
- Jason Bourgeois let us know about a book in the library at Our Lady of the Lake University written by Bernardo de Gálvez regarding New Spain's interior provinces.
- Walter Herbeck mentioned he is still in rehab and requested continued prayers.
- Governor Joe Perez adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.