



LA GRANADA



September 2020



Order of Granaderos
y Damas de Gálvez
San Antonio Chapter



www.granaderos.org



September Chapter Meeting To Be Held Virtually

We have not had an in-person chapter meeting since March of this year. Due to the coronavirus, we have not had a chance to get together for five months, however, that will change in September. We will have a chapter meeting on Wednesday, September 2nd at 7:30 p.m. We will not meet in person but rather, we will meet virtually, via the internet in a Zoom meeting.

What is Zoom? It is an internet platform for teleconferencing used by businesses, organizations and individuals. To attend via your computer, you will need to get on the internet, go to www.zoom.com and click on the "Sign up for free" button. After downloading the program, you will be able to attend Zoom meetings.

For our September meeting, the internet links are on page two of this newsletter. The links will also be sent via email to those who receive this newsletter electronically. You will be able to use your computer's camera (if you have one) so everyone can see you. You will also be able to see everyone else in attendance. We will all be able to mute our computers to eliminate background noise and we can choose to have our cameras on or off.

There will be an optional practice session on Tuesday, September 1 at 7:30 p.m. for anyone who wants to test the application.

It will be fun to get together again, even if it is through virtual means. The virtual meeting will be conducted similar to a regular meeting in that we will have the Invocation, Treasurer's Report, committee reports and a presentation. We hope to see and hear you soon!

IN THIS ISSUE:

	<u>PG.</u>
September Virtual Meeting	1
Meeting/Events	2
Chapter Officers	2
Gálvez in Different Formats	3
Recent Internet Articles	4
Treasurer's Report	4
Battle of Medina:	
The Gettysburg of Texas	5-6

~ Next Meeting: ~

Our September meeting will be online. To attend, you must:

- Download the Zoom application to your computer.
- Click the applicable link below (or copy the link into your web browser.)

As mentioned on page one of this newsletter, there are two links to access two separate events on separate days. One is a beginner's practice session to test your system and see if you can get on a Zoom meeting and one is the actual meeting.

- Optional practice session
Tuesday, September 1 at 7:30 p.m.
Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86843274178?pwd=YXAzTIY0cEh6d0duU3h5eStyb1hRQT09>
- Actual meeting
Wednesday, September 2 at 7:30 p.m.
Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83543297963?pwd=K3VYdnFUOHRUTmF3b3d1R0NmYINEdz09>

The Wednesday meeting will consist of the following:

Invocation

Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

Presentation titled "The Gálvez Portrait."

We'll see you on the Zoom meeting!



**Dues-Paying
Members With
Birthdays in July**

**Happy Birthday
September Babies!**

Sept. 5

Dorothy Perez

Sept. 17

Abel Araiza

Sept. 23

Lucila Flores

Governor

Joe Perez

Deputy Governor

Alex Zamora

Treasurer

Manny Rodriguez

Secretary

Briana Perez

Drum Major

Ricardo Rodriguez

Chaplain

Joe González

Bernardo de Gálvez in Different Formats



The company shown in the banner above recently issued a hand-painted miniature figurine of Bernardo de Gálvez that is shown at left. The company makes figurines of various historical people. It is good to know that they recognize Gálvez as an important person in history worthy of such an endeavor.

The molding and painting are accurate representations of what Gálvez wore, according to various paintings, although most paintings have his coat as more of a navy blue color.

Below left is another miniature figurine of Gálvez made by KronzPrinz Toy Soldiers. It is a dramatic pose of Gálvez giving a command. It is part of the company's "Pensacola 1781" series representing various soldiers at the Siege of Pensacola, to include Granaderos of the Navarra Regiment.



At right is a character identification card for Gálvez in the popular video game Assassin's Creed. The avatar is not intended to be historically accurate but his character's biographical history within the game retains its accuracy. In the game, Gálvez is what is called an NPC or Non Playable Character, meaning he doesn't interact with other characters, but the player may seek him out for advice for a mission. Needless to say, it is a fantasy game, albeit it, a very popular one.

For an unsung hero who the public had hardly heard about a few years ago, Bernardo de Gálvez sure is getting more attention these days. I think it is safe to say that our organization has had something to do with that, given the awareness we have created over the past forty five years.

Bernardo de Gálvez

Biographical information	
Born	23 July 1746 Macharaviaya, Málaga, Crown of Castile
Died	30 November 1786 (aged 40) Tacubaya District, Mexico City, New Spain
Species	Human
Political information	
Affiliations	Spanish Army

Recent Internet Articles

The Battle of Baton Rouge

Here is an article and local news report video on the Spanish victory of Bernardo de Gálvez at Baton Rouge as part of a series titled Heart of Louisiana. Below is the internet address.

<https://www.fox8live.com/2020/07/28/heart-louisiana-bernardo-de-galvez-battle-baton-rouge/>

Historically Speaking

The Pleasanton Express newspaper had an article in its July 1, 2020, edition about Bernardo de Gálvez. The article mentions books by Granaderos Jesse O. Villarreal Sr. and Robert Thonhoff.

<https://www.pleasantonexpress.com/articles/historically-speaking-37/>

Telematic Seminar on Bernardo de Gálvez

The Spain-U.S. Council Foundation conducted an online seminar about Bernardo de Gálvez. Below is the internet address.

<https://thediplomatinspain.com/en/2020/08/bernardo-de-galvez-a-little-known-spanish-hero-of-the-american-revolution/>

The Spanish Legacy

Our friend, Dr. Evaristo Martinez-Radio Garrido, sent us a link to an excellent website named The Legacy. It has very interesting information. This is on their masthead and tells us the focus of their website: *"The Legacy is dedicated to bringing attention to the significance of Spain's historical and cultural contributions to the United States, in order to encourage and promote the ties between the two countries based on the cherished relationship that has united us since before the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America."* Their website address is: <https://www.thespanishlegacy.com/>

Chapter Treasurer's Report

Checking Account for July

Beginning balance	\$4,147.34
Expenses	.00
Income	.35 Dividend
<u>Ending Balance for July</u>	<u>\$4,147.69</u>

207TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MEDINA, "THE GETTYSBURG OF TEXAS" August 18, 2020

By Robert H. Thonhoff

On this day, August 18th, in the year 1813, two hundred and seven years ago, in a matter of just a few hours, Texas lost over one-half of its adult male population and about one-third of its total population in the disastrous Battle of Medina, a veritable "Gettysburg of Texas."

The fateful Battle of Medina was a Texas counterpart of the Mexican Revolution against Spain, which started with "El Grito de Dolores" by Padre Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla on September 16, 1810, and quietly ended on August 24, 1821.

Fought on August 18, 1813, somewhere in a sandy oak forest region of southern Bexar County and northern Atascosa County, the Battle of Medina was the deadliest, bloodiest battle ever fought on Texas soil.



The author's home, where he proudly displayed the Spanish flag and the green flag of the Republican Army of the North.

Occurring during a very confused and turbulent period of world history, the disastrous Battle of Medina affected the destinies of five nations of the world: Spain, Mexico, the United States of America, France, and England. Mexico and much of Latin America were in revolt against Spain, whose king from 1807 until 1814 was Joseph Bonaparte, the brother of Napoleon, who was on a rampage in Europe, and the United States of America was at war

with England, later to be called the War of 1812.

In this cauldron of world events, Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara, a visionary rancher and merchant of Revilla, Nuevo Santander, and Augustus Magee, a former West Point graduate, aided and abetted by the United States, organized an expedition to wrest the Province of Texas from Spain. Flying the Green Flag, their Republican Army of the North crossed from the Neutral Ground in Louisiana into Texas on August 7, 1812, and soon captured Nacogdoches and Trinidad de Salcedo before heading toward and capturing Presidio La Bahía, where during the winter of 1812-1813, Spanish Royalist forces under Texas Governor Manuel de Salcedo and Nuevo León Governor Simón de Herrera besieged the Republicans for nearly four months, one

of the longest sieges—if not the longest—in American military history. Royalists lifted the siege, and the Republicans marched toward San Antonio and defeated the Spanish Royalists on March 29, 1813, in the Battle of Rosillo. The Republicans took control of San Antonio on April 1, 1813, and on April 4, 1813, two Spanish governors, Manuel de Salcedo and Simón de Herrera, were brutally executed. On April 6 a Declaration of Independence established the first republican government of the State of Texas, with a President-Protector, a *Junta* (council), and a Constitution. After the victorious Battle of Alazán on the outskirts of Béxar on June 20, 1813, the Republicans reigned supreme in Texas.

With one bold stroke, however, Spain struck back. On August 18, 1813, the 1,830-member Spanish Royalist Army under General Joaquín de Arredondo decimated the 1,400-member Republican Army of the North under the command of General José Álvarez de Toledo in "*la batalla del encinal de Medina.*" Less than one hundred of the Republicans are known to have escaped.

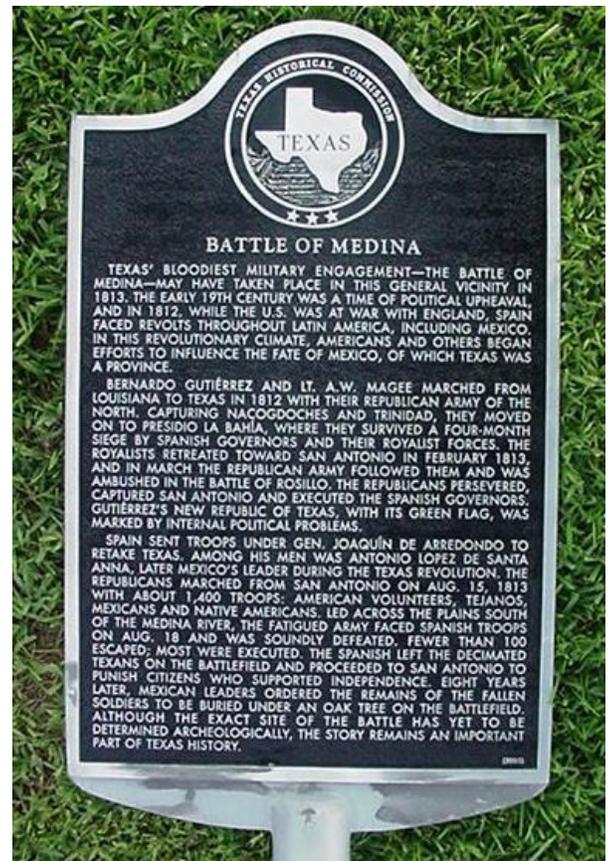
The Republican Army of the North was composed of about 200-300 *Norteamericanos*, 800-900 *Tejanos*, 100-200 Native Americans, and one Black named "Thomas."

More lives were lost in the Battle of Medina than were lost in the battles at the Alamo, Goliad, and San Jacinto combined some 23 years later in the Second Texas Revolution of 1835-1836.

Times in Texas during August 1813 and the weeks and months and years thereafter were indescribably cataclysmic. The total population of Texas in the year 1809, counting men, women, and children was reported to be 3,122. A mathematical analysis reveals that about one-third of the total population of Texas and over one-half of the adult male population of Texas was lost in the fateful Battle of Medina and its vengeful aftermath.

So far, six of the Republicans are known to have been veterans of the American Revolution, some were sons of American Revolutionaries, some were later participants in the War of 1812, and some were participants of the Second Texas Revolution of 1835-1836. The bones of about 800 Republicans killed in the Battle of Medina were left to bleach on the sand for nine years before they were gathered in 1822 and buried under an oak tree somewhere in the "*encinal.*"

Once found and archaeologically confirmed, the Medina battle site, the oak tree burial site of some 800 Republican warriors, and the burial site of 55 Royalist soldiers killed in the battle would be worthy of designation as National Historical Sites.



Historical marker for the Battle of Medina.