

# **Wills of a Father and Son and A Contribution to the American Revolution**

**Part 1 of 2**

**By Virginia Sanchez**

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Antonio Xavier Madríd's military possessions listed in his will dated January 3, 1813 include two rifles (muskets); a Spanish military uniform consisting of a hat, an old blue wool cape, and a heavy woolen waistcoat; an ardagá (shield); a pair of boots and spurs; and miscellaneous garments. Also listed among his possessions are a mule, a horse, a donkey, and an additional musket. According to the Reglamento of 1729, a presidial soldier's uniform should conform in some measure or common standard and each soldier was required to have six horses and a mule.<sup>15</sup> Even though maintaining any uniformity in military dress was difficult in New Mexico due to short supply and minimal replacements, Antonio Xavier's uniform and arms on the most part met the day's requirements.

To his son, Juan Nepomuceno Madríd, he left a musket from the armament; a cartridge belt without cartridges; and his hat, old blue cape, aged waistcoat, and miscellaneous garments. To another son, José Antonio Madríd, he left a musket, a pair of boots and spurs, and his blue uniform, and shield. His daughter, María Josefa, was married to Josef Manuel Sena, armorer of the Presidio and one of the executors named in his will. In addition, Antonio Xavier entrusted his son-in-law to guard 22 pesos. Josef Manuel Sena and two other named executors, brothers-in-law Juan Nepomuceno Madríd and Miguel Rodríguez, were asked to collect the horse owed Antonio Xavier by his brother, Juan Antonio Madríd. (For detailed information on the Madríd [family genealogy](#), refer to the following article by Henrietta Christmas.)

Based on the time Spain was at war with England and the Spanish military service records of New Mexico Colonial Patriot Antonio Xavier Madríd, we know he donated two pesos (\$60) toward the cause of the American colonies. At this time, the Province of New Mexico was rather poor and sparsely populated. His sacrifice to the cause of the American Revolution came at a time when cash was hard to come by and soldiers were sometimes not paid in full or paid in pesos de la tierra (e.g., crops) as opposed to pesos firma (cash).

Antonio Xavier Madríd's father, Cristóbal Madríd, listed as possessions in his will dated 1765 six horses and his complete military equipment with which he served the King. In Antonio Xavier's will dated 48 years later, all that remained as symbols of honor and service were some muskets, a cartridge belt; a shield, various articles of military attire, a mule, and two horses. Like his father, Antonio Xavier affirmed his belief in God and the saints and asked that his body be shrouded in the habit of Saint Francis.

From their wills and from research, we can piece together only a portion of their lives. From their contributions we can document an important part of history that recognizes significant contributions to the American cause by the eastern as well as the southwestern parts of these United States. Only years later would many learn of the significant roles Spain and its colonies played in the American Revolution.

To date, very few New Mexico Colonial Patriots have been recognized by the DAR and the SAR. The DAR officially accepted José Campos Redondo, Alcalde Mayor of Santa Cruz de la Cañada, and Antonio José Ortiz, Alcalde Mayor of Santa Fe, as New Mexico Colonial Patriots of the American Revolution. The DAR recognized them on the fact that they rendered aid to the American cause by being instrumental in collecting the required donations.<sup>16</sup>

Last March, Eva Torres Aschenbrener was inducted into the Kearny Santa Fe chapter of the DAR as a descendant of New Mexico Colonial Patriot Juan Luís de Herrera, 1st Squadron Leader of the Cuera Troop at the Presidio of Santa Fe. Last April, 75-year old James Alexander Lovato, seventh great-grandson of New Mexico Colonial Patriot Juan de Urioste, was inducted into the Colorado Chapter of the SAR. In 2001, 77-year old José Teófilo Sánchez, seventh great-grandson of

New Mexico Colonial Patriot Antonio Xavier Madrid, was inducted into the Colorado Chapter of the SAR. And, in 1999, Charles Martinez y Vigil, eighth great-grandson of New Mexico Colonial Patriot Francisco Martín Torres, was inducted into the South Coast Chapter of the California Society SAR during an event held at the courtyard of the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe. Torres became the SARs first recognized New Mexico Colonial Patriot of the American Revolution.

For a Patriot to be recognized by the SAR and the DAR, descendants of Patriots must research and document their lineage and apply for membership. One source of vital information is the Spanish enlistment papers, which provide service dates, physical descriptions, and occasionally name of a soldiers parents. The list of Spanish enlistments for the Province of New Mexico, as excerpted from Hough and Hough, Spain's New Mexico Patriots During Its 1779-1783 War with England, is available on NMHS Vice President José Esquibels website at <http://pages.prodigy.net/bluemountain1/patriota.htm>; and in Virginia Langham Olmsted's, Spanish Enlistment Papers of New Mexico, 1732-1820, published in the December 1979 issue of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly.

The SAR accepts male applicants, 18 years or older, who can prove lineage back to a Patriot ancestor who contributed to the American cause between the 1779-1783 timeframe, the time Spain officially was at war with England. The DARs criterion for descendants of New Mexico Colonial Patriots is slightly different. Female applicants, who are descendants of New Mexico Colonial Patriots, must be able to prove that the Patriot soldier was at the Presidio of Santa Fe between April 3, 1782 and November 18, 1782, and that he was discharged after November 1782. April 3, 1782 is the date Governor Anza authorized collection of the donativos within the Province of New Mexico. November 18, 1782 represents the date of Anzas letter to Croix informing him that all but three donativos were collected.<sup>17</sup>

As stated by Robert H. Thonhoff, An important door of recognition has been opened for many thousands of Hispanics if they but do their genealogical homework.<sup>18</sup> Consider the number of descendants of Spanish Colonial Patriots who served under the Spanish flag (including Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico) who, as a result of Spains aid, can say their ancestors aided in the American Revolution and can now be officially recognized through societies such as the SAR and the DAR. Thomas Chavez adds, Hispanic families in the United States range from recent arrivals to people whose ancestors settled in what is today the United States before Jamestown or the Puritans and Pilgrims.<sup>19</sup> Members of these families can now be included in stating that their ancestors aided the American cause. There is no better way to open that door of recognition than to document the contributions of our Colonial Patriots and get their information officially recognized, microfilmed, and catalogued in historical documents.

Antonio Xavier Madrid was but one of many Spanish soldiers and citizens who contributed to the American cause. For generations, descendants of New Mexico Colonial Patriots have made significant contributions by proudly serving in defense of their countries. During the period when New Mexico was under Mexican rule, José Antonio Sena, Antonio Xavier Madrids grandson, was recognized for valor in recognition of his service against the aventureros tejanos (adventurous Texans) in 1841. Manuel Armijo, commanding officer and Governor of New Mexico, recommended Sena for an escudo de honor, the Mexican equivalent of the Medal of Honor. This honor was granted to Sena by the President of the Republic of Mexico, along with a promotion to Captain.<sup>20</sup>

Continuing in this tradition, descendants of New Mexico Colonial Patriots as United States citizens have continued to proudly serve their country. As stated by the Eugene A. Obregon / Congressional Medal of Honor Campaign, unquestioned service to the country is part of the ethos of the Latino community. Out of a total of 3,427 medals granted by the U.S. Congress, 38

have been given to citizens of Latino ancestry, making Latinos the largest single ethnic group, in proportion to the number who served, to earn this prestigious award.<sup>21</sup>

There is no better way to honor our Patriot ancestors than by working to ensure that future generations will be aware of the contributions of Spanish Colonial Patriots to the American cause. If you take the number of New Mexico Colonial Patriots, add to that number all their descendants, we would have an impressive number of newly found daughters and sons who can impact and change what traditionally was taught about American colonial history. Through the actions and support of our Spanish Colonial Patriot ancestors, we, as their descendant daughters and sons, solidify our right and privilege to be called Americans.

#### About the Author:

Virginia Sanchez is an author, historian and genealogist. She has published articles in cultural and genealogical journals, and family histories she has written are cataloged in libraries in Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming. She worked for a Fortune 500 telecommunications company for 20 years as a senior writer and has been researching her [family genealogy](#) for 15 years. She received her [Bachelor's degree](#) in Music from the University of Wyoming and received a Master's degree in Technical Communication from the University of Colorado at Denver. She is a member of several genealogical and historical societies and she regularly presents her findings at their annual conferences. Her application to the Daughters of the American Revolution, which honors her eighth great-grandfather, New Mexico Colonial Patriot, Soldado de Cuera Antonio Xavier Madrid, was approved July 3, 2002.

#### Additional Information:

Any interested male descendant of a New Mexico Patriot can contact one of the following for additional information about the SAR: Charles Martinez y Vigil at [granbelador@hotmail.com](mailto:granbelador@hotmail.com); George W. Randle, New Mexico Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Box 525, [Placitas](#), NM 87043 ([snggrand@nm.net](mailto:snggrand@nm.net)); or visit <http://www.sar.org>. Any interested female descendant of a New Mexico Patriot can contact Virginia Sánchez, [virginia.sanchez@attbi.com](mailto:virginia.sanchez@attbi.com); Harriett McCallum, New Mexico Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, [HHM@prodigy.net](mailto:HHM@prodigy.net); or visit <http://www.dar.org>. Application and membership fees apply. Chapter membership is optional.

#### Footnotes

1 Ralph E. Twitchell, Spanish Archives of New Mexico, Series 1, Roll III, Frame 116.

2 Virginia Langham Olmsted, Spanish Enlistment Papers of New Mexico, 1732-1820, (National Genealogical Society Quarterly), December 1979, Vol. 67, (297).

3 Ralph E. Twitchell, Spanish Archives of New Mexico, Number 611, Frame 1552.

4 Ibid. Roll 11, March 1781, Frame 217.

5 The Vital Contributions of Spain in the Winning of the American Revolution: An Essay on a Forgotten Chapter in the History of the American Revolution, Robert H. Thonhoff, 2000, (2) , self published, 617 N. Esplanade St., [Karnes City](#), TX, 78118-2522, (830) 780-3582.

6 Edward F. Butler, Sr., Spains Involvement in the American Revolutionary War, Part 1, <http://www.sar.org/canada/spinvo-1.htm>

7 Ibid. Part 2.

8 Thomas E. Chavez, Spain and the Independence of the United States, (213-214).

9 Robert H. Thonhoff, The Vital Contributions of Spain in the Winning of the American Revolution: An Essay on a Forgotten Chapter in the History of the American Revolution, 2000, (2), self published, 617 N. Esplanade St., Karnes City, TX, 78118-2522, (830) 780-3582 (profk@karnesec.net).

10 Thomas E. Chavez, Spain and the Independence of the United States, (214, Note 9) and Ralph E. Twitchell, Spanish Archives of New Mexico, 2, translated extract.

11 Thomas E. Chavez, Spain and the Independence of the United States, (214).

12 Ibid. (Note 11).

13 Ibid. (214).

14 Ibid (Note 14).

15 Max L. Moorhead, The Soldado de Cuera: Stalwart of the Spanish Borderlands, Journal of the West, 1969 (46) and Viceroy Marques de Casafuerte, Reglamento para todos los presidios de las [Provincias Internas](#) de ésta Gobernación (Mexico, 1729).

16 Electronic correspondence from Donna J. Santistevan, DAR Spanish Task Force, February 13, 2001 and May 29, 2002.

17 Electronic correspondence from Harriet McCallum, Regent of the Santa Fe DAR Chapter in Santa Fe, to Donna Santistevan, DAR Spanish Task Force, April 17, 2002.

18 Robert H. Thonhoff, The Vital Contributions of Spain in the Winning of the American Revolution: An Essay on a Forgotten Chapter in the History of the American Revolution, addendum dated March 18, 2002 (self-published, 617 N. Esplanade St., Karnes City, TX 78118 (profk@karnesec.net).

19 Thomas Chavez, Spanish Sacrifice, The Santa Fe New Mexican, Section F, July 4, 1999 (F1).

20 Robert J. Torrez, La Crónica de Nuevo Mexico, Historical Society of New Mexico, March 2002.

21 Obregon/CMH Foundation, Eugene A. Obregon / Congressional Medal of Honor Campaign, May 21, 2002, <http://www.azteca.net/cmhlatino/>

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