

LOS FLORIDANOS SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 4043, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32085

FLORIDA'S FIRST SPANISH FAMILIES

MARCH 8, 2003

LOSFLORIDANOS.ORG

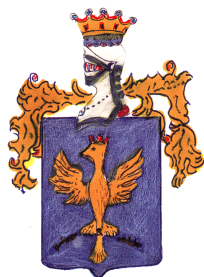


SOLANA / SOLANO

LOS FLORIDANOS NEWSLETTER *By Linda Solana Barber*

SPRING IS ALMOST HERE !!

Florida's First Families
1565-1763



SANCHEZ

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Mar 8 Monthly meeting. Dick Rousseau's House. 9:30AM
Southern Continental Breakfast.

Mar 18 Meeting of Nominating Committee and Board of Directors, 3:00 pm. Location to be announced.

Mar 22 Menorcan Festival at the Oldest House Museum Complex., 11:00 until 3:00 PM.

Apr 5 Monthly meeting 9:30 am.

May 3 Monthly meeting. TBA

March Meeting

Place: Dick and Kay Rousseau's Home at 3817 Magnolia Point Lane

Directions: US 1 to Point Vail Rd. then turn left on Magnolia Point Lane 797-4952 (for info)

DATE: March 8, 2003

TIME: 9:30 AM

SPEAKER: Dr. Bill Adams

Come enjoy a Southern- Style Continental Breakfast and hear all about the Lunch at Eddy's.

Our Annual Membership Fees are Due!

This is the time of year when we create our new mailing lists for the coming year. Please send your dues for this year so you can be included on our mailing list. Due to the cost incurred we can only send newsletters to members. Send dues to PO Box 4043, St. Augustine, FL 32085. Please call 904-471-6233 if you have any questions. **Please keep us posted on any changes to your Email address.**

Menendez Birthday Celebration Los Floridanos Society Luncheon

Those of you who missed our Luncheon, Feb. 21, missed a good time.

The 75 who attended, enjoyed fried fish, cole slaw, cheese grits, baked beans, French fries, hush puppies and topped it all off with Gaybe's fresh strawberry cake. The cake was WONDERFUL!

We received several gifts from our guest and I will bring them for everyone to see and enjoy at our monthly meeting. We presented them with Los Floridanos hats and a Solana Cookbook.

Pleamar, the Spanish dance troupe and musicians entertained us with their bagpipes and drum. We had a clapping good time.

Please patronize Eddy's and let them know we had a wonderful time and appreciated their help. They went out of their way to make it a success for us.

Order Los Floridanos Memorabilia !

Golf Shirts	\$25.00
Caps	\$12.00
Totes	\$8.50 & \$11.00
Solana or Sanchez Banners	\$20.00
Los Floridanos Flags	\$35.00
Medallions.....	\$12.00

ANCESTORS..... The Fall of Pensacola

Submitted by Linda Barber

During the British Occupation of Florida (1763-1784), the Spanish were ever vigilant for the opportunity to gain a foothold back into Florida.

Remember this was during the period that the Revolutionary War was running full steam and the British had their hands full trying to subdue the rebellious colonies. Eventually victory and independence were achieved by the thirteen colonies, but the British still held control of the Florida Territory. Needless to say the American colonies did not like the close proximity of the British in Florida.

Many forays were made by Spanish forces to threaten the British in Florida. As you can imagine the American colonies appreciated any help the Spanish could give them in diverting Britain's resources. While the Spanish were not direct allies of the American colonies they were the allies of the French who were the direct allies of the colonies.

Our ancestors, who left Florida for Cuba when the British took over, played important roles in these forays. We know that our ancestors who stayed in British Florida were also helpful to the Spanish Crown in many ways, especially Francisco X. Sanchez.

Bernardo de Galvez was the Spanish Commander who in 1779 won Baton Rouge from the British. In 1780 he pushed the British out of Mobile.

His next attempt at routing the British came in 1781 when he obtained the fall of Pensacola. The effort involved four attempts before being successful.

On his fourth attempt he was aided by the arrival, on April 19, 1781, of a fleet of more than twenty ships commanded by the Chief of Squadron, Joseph Solana. Solana besides the twenty ships, brought 1,600 additional soldiers and a French compliment of four frigates with 775 French troops.

The Spanish expedition was not very successful in the initial attacks but they were able to secure the city when a well aimed grenade from a howitzer hit close to the door of the British powder magazine, causing devastating casualties to the British Forces.

With the fall of Pensacola, the colonies could be assured a continuous flow of supplies from Florida and

Louisiana. I'm sure they also received a psychological boost from the defeat of the British.

Five weeks later, George Washington and his French ally, Rochambeau, started the 700 mile trek to Yorktown which resulted in the colonies final victory.

An interesting side note to the battle in Pensacola is the active involvement of the Irish Brigade, one of the most celebrated corps of the Spanish Army.

The Irish Brigade was formed in 1709, from Irish soldiery who took service in Spain as an alternative to oppression in their homeland. At one time the brigade consisted of seven or more regiments. In 1818 the Irish brigade was incorporated into the regular Spanish regiments. The descendants of the Irish Brigade have provided Spain with many generals, admirals and celebrated leaders through the centuries.

I wonder if the descendants from the Irish Brigade came from Asturias, Spain and this is the link with the bagpipes and the Spanish?

Taken from "The Irish Brigade of Spain at the Capture of Pensacola, 1781 by W.S. Murphy, Florida State Historical Society.

Family News

As quoted from The St. Augustine Record

“Orangedale resident **Geraldine (Jerry) Anderson** and her husband, **Granvil**, had one wonderful time Feb. 13, when they dined in Tallahassee with Gov. and Mrs. Jeb Bush.”

“The occasion was sponsored by the Florida Association of Senior Centers, and the Andersons were chosen from a long list of couples married 50 years or more and nominated by friends and relatives to dine with the first family of Florida. “

Way to go Jerry and Granvil! We can't wait to hear all about it.

Dot Scanlon will have surgery, Mar. 6. We hope everything goes well and she is out and around very soon..

We were glad to see our “out of state” member **Joyce Laseter** and her family with us for the Los Floridanos Luncheon. We hope they will join us often.

Don't forget the Menorcan Festival, March 22, at the Oldest House Museum Complex, 11:00 to 3:00.

