

Introduction to the 1775 *Revista* of Bexar

Jose Maria BARRON DE RIPPERDA was the Governor of Texas from 1770 to 1779. He was also the military commandant in Texas and was the active commander of the *Presidio de Bexar* in San Antonio. He prepared a *Revista* monthly. A *Revista* is a list of the soldiers at a particular location. **RIPPERDA** prepared his *Revistas* more regularly than most military commanders on the Frontier. The Bexar Archives alone contain twenty one of his *Revistas* from the years 1774 through 1777. This particular *Revista* is from the Nacogdoches Archives.

The Indians, particularly the Comanches, were very active in Texas during his term of office. **RIPPERDA** had the *Fuerte del Cibolo* reconstructed in 1772 and kept it manned to protect the area ranches. Twenty of the soldiers listed in this *Revista* were detailed to the *Fuerte del Cibolo* and this was a consistent number while the *Fuerte* was open. *Soldados en la Cavallada* refers to those soldiers with the horseherd. *Presente* means they were present for duty at Bexar. *Enfermo* means that they were sick. *En las Islas* refers to a settlement of civilians south of present day San Antonio on the San Antonio River. *En la Trinidad* refers to the settlement, *Trinidad de Salcedo*, on the Trinity River. *Ynvalido* means that the soldier is retired.

RIPPERDA was in office when the *Presidio Nuestra Senora del Pilar de los Adaes* was closed in 1772. He supervised the closure and the trip back to San Antonio for the soldiers, their families, and other residents in the area.

There are two notes at the end of this *Revista*. The first concerns the disappearance of the soldier **Joseph Antonio SANTA CRUZ**. He was carrying a map to another *Presidio* and was apparently killed by Comanches although his body had not been recovered.

The second note concerns the recruitment of a new soldier, **Joseph Francisco DE CASTRO**. The new soldier was born at the *Presidio de Bexar* to **Marcos DE CASTRO** and **Antonia CARBAJAL**. Presumably **Marcos DE CASTRO** was also a soldier. Soldiers were almost always descendants of other soldiers and military families are recognized as a distinct genealogical group because the military units were one large extended family. **Joseph Francisco** is described as being of good height, 20 years of age, reddish hair and eyebrows, dark eyes, and light complexion.