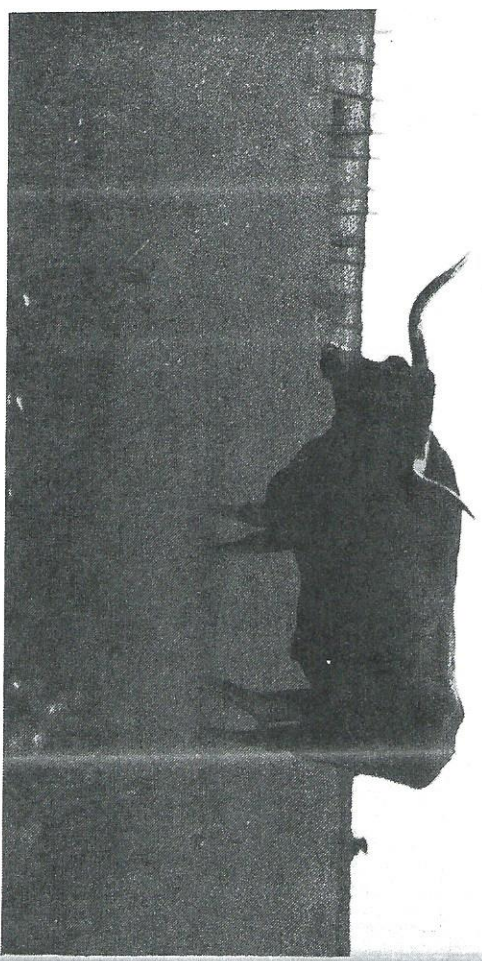


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(14)

The Texas Connection

With The
American Revolution



—Photo courtesy of Kenneth R. Purser of Karnes City, Texas

*This Texas Longhorn descendant is pastured
on land once a part of the Rancho del Señor
San José in present Karnes County, Texas. It
weighs about 2400 lbs., and its horns are 84
in. tip to tip, close to, if not, a world record.*

Gift To
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the San Antonio River and Arroyo de Cibolo, and Menchaca received the western part. Hernandez called his ranch *San Bartolomé*. Situated on the west bank of Cibolo Creek near present Panna Maria, Czestochowa, and Kosciusko, it consisted of four leagues and eight *caballerías*, or 18,599 acres. Menchaca called his ranch *San Francisco*, which lay on the east bank of the San Antonio River between present Floresville and Falls City and consisted of eleven leagues and four *caballerías*, or 49,107 acres of land. Between *San Bartolomé* (sometimes called *San Bartolo*) and *San Francisco* was a ranch deeded to the Indians of Mission San Juan Capistrano called *Pataguilla*.²²

About 1760, various other citizens of San Antonio and La Bahía began to establish ranches along the San Antonio River and Arroyo del Cibolo for the purpose of raising *ganados mayores* (large stock: cattle, horses, donkeys, and mules) and *ganados menores* (small stock: sheep and goats). By the time of the American Revolution, ranching between Bexar and La Bahía had reached astonishing proportions. Thousands of head of livestock roamed the ranges that belonged to the missions and citizens.

As was the custom of the time, ranches were usually given descriptive nicknames. Extant land titles, survey field notes, and various other records identify in this region, besides *San Bartolomé*, *San Francisco*, and *Pataguilla*, the following ranches in operation during the period of the American Revolution:

- Rancho de la Mora*, which belonged to the Mission San Antonio de Valero
- Rancho de Laguna de las Animas*, which belonged to Manuel Delgado
- Rancho de las Cabras*, which belonged to Mission San Francisco de la Espada
- Rancho del Paso de las Mujeres*, which belonged to Ignacio Calvillo

22. Compromise Donation Between Luís Antonio Menchaca and Andrés Hernández, April 12, 1758 (Spanish Archives of the General Land Office, Austin, Texas).

- Rancho de los Chayopines*, which belonged to Francisco Flores de Ábrego
- Rancho de San Rafael*, which belonged to Simón and Juan de Arocha
- Rancho del Paistle*, which belonged to Mission Concepción
- Rancho de las Mulas*, which belonged to Vicente Álvarez Travieso and his sons, Tomás and Francisco
- Rancho de San José de los Alamos*, which was operated by Doña Leonora Delgado, widow of Juan José Flores, who died on January 19, 1779
- Rancho de Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria de las Calaveras*, which belonged to Macario Zambrano
- Rancho de Santa Cruz de la Laja*, which was operated by Diego Yrineo Rodríguez
- Rancho de San Lorenzo de las Mulas*, which was operated by María Robaina de Betancourt, widow of Lorenzo de Armas
- Rancho de San Cristóbal de Espantia Perros*, which was operated by Manuel Delgado
- Rancho de San Antonio del Cibolo*, which was operated by María Robaina de Betancourt
- Rancho de Palo Quemado*, which was also operated by María Robaina de Betancourt
- Rancho de San Miguel de Amoladeras*, which was operated by Miguel Guerra
- Rancho de San Yldefonso de Chayopin*, which was operated by Joseph Ygnacio de la Peña
- Rancho del Capitan*, which formerly belonged to Captain Manuel Ramírez y Piscina and was now operated by Mission Rosario
- Rancho de Señor San José*, which belonged to Carlos Martínez
- Rancho del Diesmero*, which was rented from Mission Rosario by Juan Barrera

Rancho de las Hermanas, which was owned by
Andrés Benites Coubiere
Rancho de Gentrúdis Rodríguez, which was operated
by Tomás Travieso
Rancho del Atascoso, which belonged to Mission San
José
Rancho de San Lucas, which was owned by Domingo
Castelo²³

A number of nondescript ranches also were situated along the streams near Béxar. Included were the ranches belonging to Joseph Martín de la Garza, Juachín de la Garza, Luís Pérez, Juan Manuel Pérez, Juan Manuel Ruíz, Francisco Xavier Rodríguez, Juan Ignacio Pérez, Miguel Gortari, and the ranches belonging to the families of Leal, Micheli, Navarro, and Herrera.²⁴

Spanish records for the period contain the names of the many cattlemen in the Béxar-La Bahía region. As will be pointed out a little later, many of these ranchers, and their vaqueros, lent a hand in the winning of the American Revolution. A roll call of these ranchers, compiled from several sources, would include the following names:

Chepe Arocha
Estranislao Arocha
Juan de Arocha
Julián de Arocha
Simón de Arocha
Blás de Ávila

Clemente Delgado
Jazinto Delgado
Manuel Delgado
Torivio Durán

Cano Flores
Francisco Flores de Ábrego
Jose Francisco Flores
Joseph Juachín Flores
Juan Joseph Flores
Vizente Flores

Ignacio Calvillo
Joseph Pérez Casanova
Manuel Casanova
Marcos de Castro
Joseph Antonio Curbelo

²³ These ranches are located, identified, and described in Weddle and Thonhoff, *Drama & Conflict: The Texas Saga of 1776*, 144-159.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

Joseph Martín de la Garza
Juachín de la Garza
Leonardo de la Garza
Miguel de la Garza
Miguel de Gortari
Pedro Granados
Francisco Guerra
Mariano Guerra
Miguel Guerra

Manuel Padrón
Joseph Ignacio de la Peña
Juan Ignacio Pérez
Cayerano Rentería
Carlos Riósas
Francisco Rodríguez
Francisco Xavier Rodríguez

Pedro Xavier Salinas
José Sánchez
Joseph Antonio Saucedo
Santiago Según
Joseph de Sosa
Manuel de Soto

Juachín Leal

Carlos Martínez
Luciano Martínez
Joseph Felix Menchaca
Juachín Menchaca
Luís Antonio Menchaca
Sebastián Monjarás
Joseph María Montes
Marcos Montes

Chico Travieso
Francisco Travieso
Juan Andrés Travieso
Tomás Travieso
Vizente Álvarez Travieso

Joseph Macario Zambrano
Marcos Zepeda
Joseph Francisco de la Zerda²⁵

²⁵ This list of Béxar ranchers was compiled from the following sources: Petition of Cibolo Ranchers, October 5, 1778 (Spanish Archives of the General Land Office); List of Citizens Who Are Going Out to Their Ranchos to Get their Cattle, July 14, 1781, Bexar Archives; Record of the Persons Who Went to the Roundup and Who Took Unbranded Cattle from the Pastures of the Ranchos of Las Mulas and San Bartolo, April 28, 1781, Bexar Archives; and Record Made by Don Macario Zambrano of the Number of *Orejuna* Cattle and Mustang Horses Caught by Residents of the Said Villa and by Persons from the Presidio of San Antonio de Béxar in the Roundup Which Was Done to Gather Cattle and Proceed with Branding, December 23, 1782, Bexar Archives.