



Joseph Miguel Tafolla

1749 - Unk

New Mexico Territory

The Tafolla family name first appeared in what is now the United States in 1692 when Antonio Tafolla carried the battle flag for Colonel Vargas' military detachment that re-conquered Santa Fe. Antonio and his two brothers, Juan and Cristobal, bought some farm property in Santa Fe and dabbled in politics. Their names appear frequently in the Spanish Archives of New Mexico.

Antonio's son, Phelipe was a lawyer, a doctor and the Lieutenant General of the Kingdom. In 1750, he was the mayor of the city of Santa Fe.

Phelipe's son, Joseph Miguel Tafolla, at the age of 20, enlisted in the Spanish army and was stationed at the Presidio of Santa Fe. He was described as being "5'5" inches and one extra line tall". He had black hair and eye brows, ruddy skin, a snubbed nose and stooped shoulders. He filled the position in the Presidio of Santa Fe of Phelipe Sandoval. The date was 1 January 1769.

The duties of these soldiers consisted of protecting the villa, village, and patrolling the vast area of New Mexico to keep the marauding Indians at bay.

This garrison was under the command of Bernardo Galvez, the Governor of New Orleans. He issued orders for special missions for the soldiers as the one intended to open a way to the west coast. The Sonora Expedition consisted of several hundred soldiers who travelled all the way to Sonora only to meet with some fierce resistance from the Indians living there and the ever present Apaches who maintained a steady presence in that area. Eventually, the Spanish soldiers had to retreat to Santa Fe but not before losing almost the entire military force. Joseph Miguel Tafolla was one of the few survivors.

Almost immediately after the first shot was fired in Concord during the American Revolution, Colonel Lee, second in command to George Washington, dispatched two men to New Orleans to see if they could acquire help from the Spaniards. They specifically needed guns, gun

powder, uniforms, quinine and whatever other material that could be spared. The governor of Louisiana, without first gaining approval from his government, complied with the request. This transaction was just the first of many that continued throughout the war.

In 1780, the king of Spain issued an order for all Spanish subjects living in America to contribute a specified amount of money which would be given to the colonists. The soldiers stationed in the Presidio of Santa Fe were included in this order. Their contribution amounted to the equivalent of six weeks' worth of pay.

This contribution was accepted by the DAR and SAR as meeting the requirement for membership in the respective organizations.