

The Bandera PROPHECY

February 10, 2021

Today in Texas history

Madam Candelaria, claimed survivor of the Battle of the Alamo, dies in 1899 at age 113

By Bandera Spirits of Texas

On Feb. 10, 1899, Andrea Castañón Villanueva (Madam Candelaria), who claimed to be a survivor of the battle of the Alamo and aided an ailing Jim Bowie, died at age 113 in San Antonio.

She said she had been born in Laredo in 1785, though other sources say she was born at Presidio del Río Grande. She came to San Antonio when she was about 25 and married Candelario Villanueva, who she said was her second husband; thereafter she became known as Madam or Señora Candelaria.

She was the mother of four children and raised 22 orphans. She nursed the sick and aided the poor. She claimed to have been in the Alamo during the 1836 battle and to have nursed the ailing Jim Bowie. Since evidence of survivors is sparse, her claims may never be confirmed, but in 1891 the Texas legislature granted her a pension of \$12 a month for being an Alamo survivor and for her work with smallpox victims in San Antonio.

Madam Candelaria is buried in San Fernando Cemetery.