The Birthmark!

The story of El Raro the hero of Alqueria has been passed down through generations of Villagers. Both the Newcomers and the Hill People have claimed him as their own. It is one of the many reasons why barrio rivalry is so intense.

Rogelio Jiminez or El Raro made his name during the Spanish War of Independence where he led a guerrilla band fighting the occupying French. Whether El Raro did much fighting is a point which historians have long puzzled over. Reports of his presence at various battles have put him safely on the sidelines offering advice but very little else. He came to prominence at La Batalla de la Cabra Sonriente. Again evidence of Los Raros as his band were known, having fought hand to hand with the French or even been within a thousand metres of them is very sketchy to say the least. They did however loot part of the French baggage train rejected by others as having no military interest.

The cases, trucks, and sacks abandoned by the French contained the clothes of the officers wives including those of Fifi, Joseph Napoleon Bonaparte's favourite mistress. Raro and his men spent many hours giggling around their camp fire as they paraded in the captured clothes. Fifi’s corset was taken back to Alqueria as a trophy where it resides in the Pueblo's museum to this day. It is a fine silk whalebone garment inscribed in golden thread, ‘For my big French Boney’.

We have some idea as to the calibre of El Raro from military documents. When the Guerrillas were integrated into the Spanish Army his proficiency report simply read. “Can ride a horse, not well but adequately.” As to his bloodline one clue exists. Estefanía La
Promiscua, a contemporary of El Raro claimed in her memoirs that he had a birthmark in the shape of a crescent moon on the inside of his left thigh. How the lady had such detailed knowledge of El Raro's thigh is perhaps something we should draw a veil over.

Birthmarks can be the result of minor genetic disorders. Someone with a similar mark may well share El Raro's lineage.

For a definitive answer to El Raro's barrio allegiance Dr. Enzo Matanzamas undertook the search for the crescent shaped birthmark. Many came forward. Some birthmarks were crudely faked on with lipstick while other industrious individuals had them tattooed on. Only one was genuine and shaped correctly. It was Izar, Manuela's daughter and of the Hill People's barrio.

Whether Izar will turn out to be the hero of Alqueria like her esteemed ancestor only time will tell.