



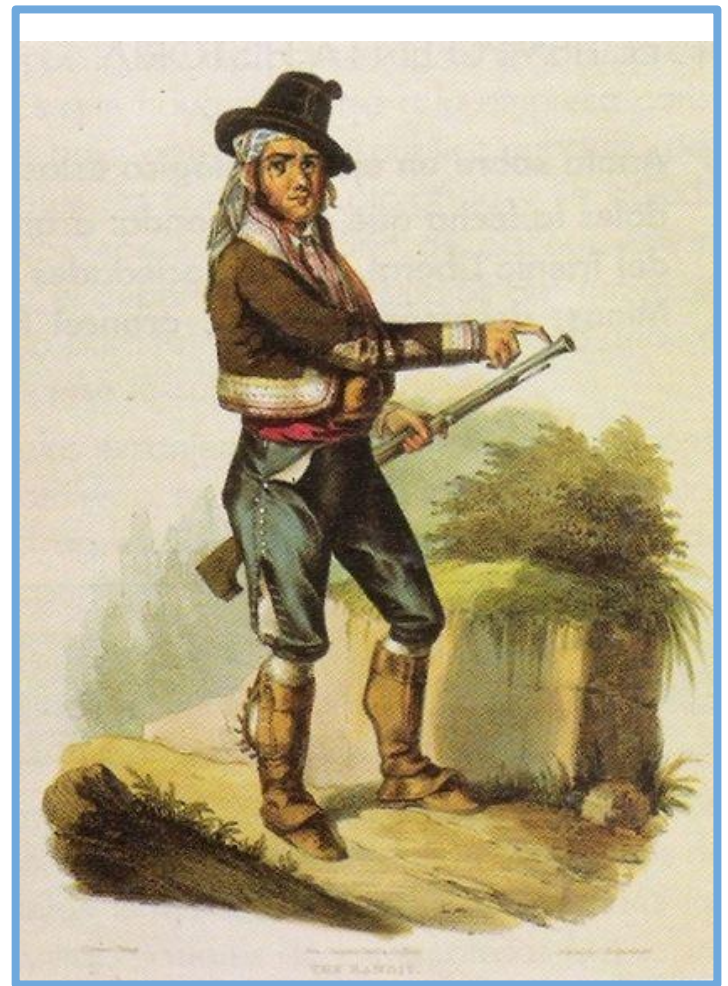
The bandit of Sierra de las Nieves

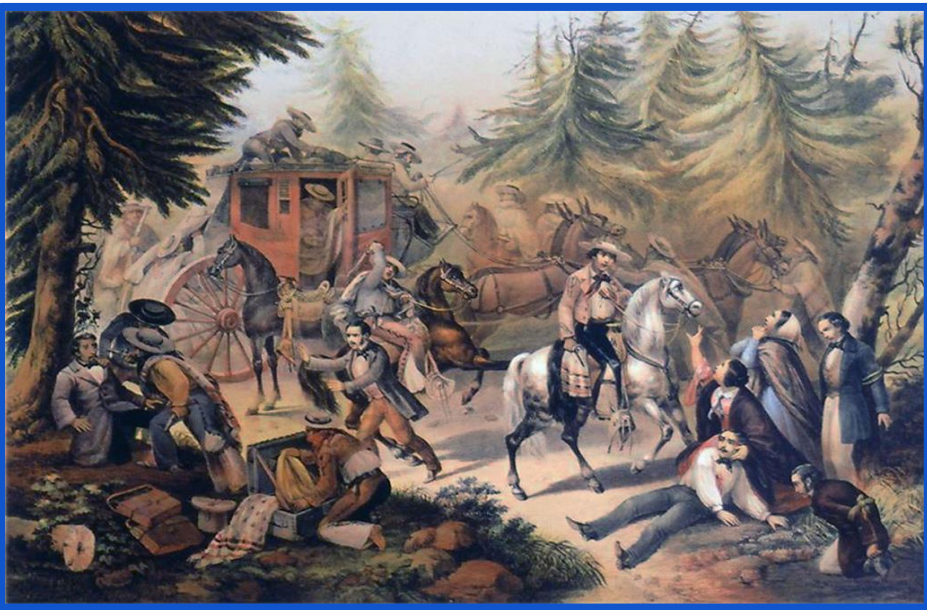
IES Costa del Sol Torremolinos

José Pelagio Hinojosa Cobacho , also known as "José María el Tempranillo" was a Spanish rebel bandit in the Serrania of Ronda.

In his first years as a bandit, he dedicated himself to smuggling and joined the band of the Seven Children of Ecija. They made a living robbing all those who crossed the mountains.

He was nicknamed "Tempranillo", perhaps due to he had to run away very young.





Despite being for about two years with this band, where he learned a lot, José, at 18, set up his own . He specialized in assaults on carriages , especially the Treasure of the Kingdom.



King Fernando VII didn't know how to stop these great waves of robbery that were taking place in the south of Spain. He commanded specialised troops to attack them , they were called migueletes.

In 1825, when he was 20 years old, he was already followed by 14 men, all older than him. Anyone who passed through the Serranía of Ronda had to deal with him and his gang.



However, he was known as "the good bandit", since he gave more money to his companions than to himself. If a town was in a precarious situation, he gave money in exchange of refuge. He also helped poor people.

His most famous and spectacular attack was in Écija, when he assaulted and stole a great stagecoach carrying a large amount of money from the taxes.

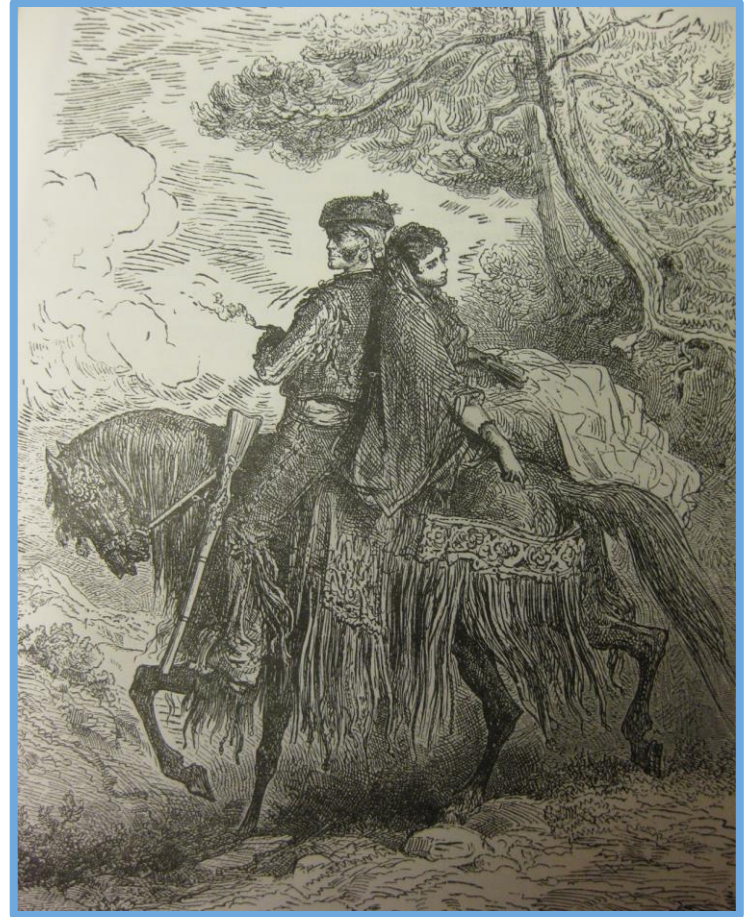
Apart from his assaults and crimes, it was shown that he wasn't a perverse or ruthless murderer, like other known bandits. He treated the ladies he stole very well. When he assaulted a carriage he was the first to help them down by offering his arm, then he took them to the shade telling them "those beautiful ladies don't need to wear these jewels".





He married María Jerónima Francés, a young and beautiful woman from Cádiz. She became pregnant and when she was about to give birth in a farmhouse in Grazalema, the migueletes surrounded the farmhouse and attacked the house. El Tempranillo” responded to the attack and the King’s soldiers didn’t dare to raid the house for fear of more bandits. In the midst of all the shooting and panic, Maria died in childbirth and the newborn child barely survived.

Seeing this situation, "the Tempranillo" acted quickly, tying the body of his beloved dead on the back and his son in the belt. He galloped out of the farmhouse mounted on his horse in the middle of the shots of the migueletes without being even hurt. The next day he delivered the body of Maria to her family and went to baptize his son in the church of Grazalema. When he arrived there, people were frightened by a possible revenge but "El Tempranillo" did nothing and nobody called the authorities, respecting his pain.





In 1832, Fernando VII forgave all those who wanted to serve the law and be free, executing all the bandits who didn't join the proposal. El Tempranillo spoke with his men, telling them that if they followed him they will be free and they won't be arrested, but if they didn't follow him he would look for them and take them to the prison. Juan Caballero joined him, but "el Veneno" said that they would seek him out, that he would never stop being what he was. Thus, a fight began between bandits well devised by the King. In December of that year "El Veneno" fell, being executed.

In the middle of a battle between bandits "El Tempranillo", near a ranch that he had in Alameda, ran into an ambush of an old companion "El Barberillo who shot him dead, ending his life at 28 years old.

