

The bandit of Sierra de las Nieves

IES Costa del Sol Torremolinos



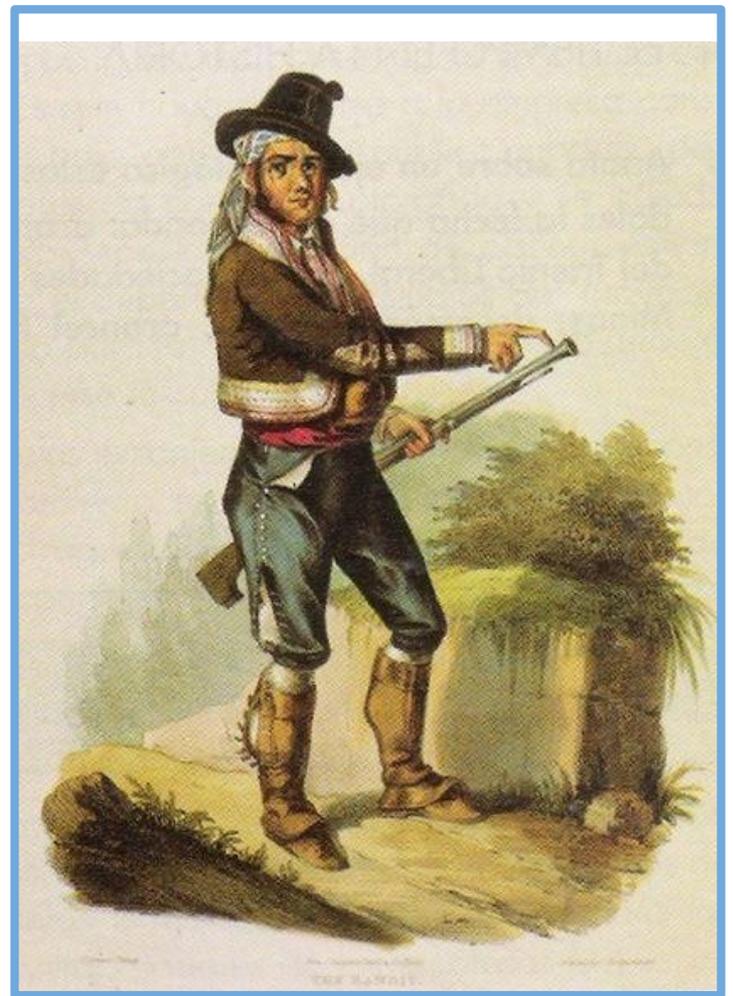
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José Pelagio Hinojosa Cobacho , also known as "José María el Tempranillo" was a Spanish rebel bandit in the Serrania of Ronda.

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

He was nicknamed "Tempranillo", perhaps because he had to run away from justice very young.



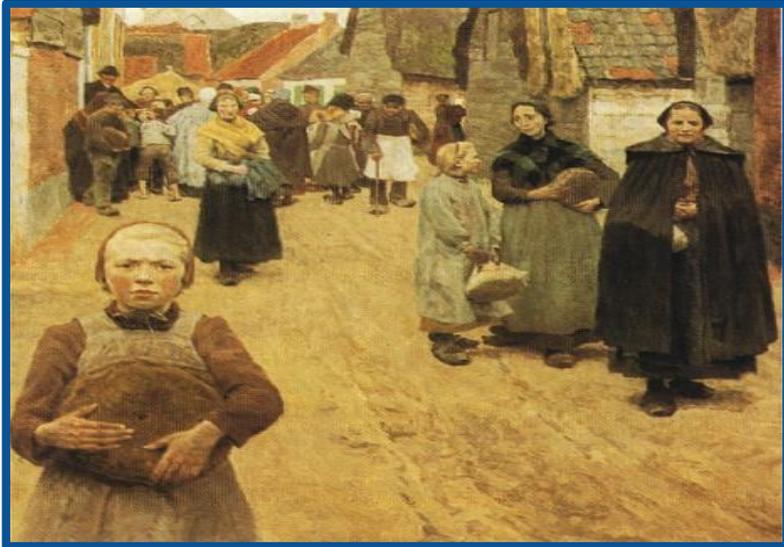
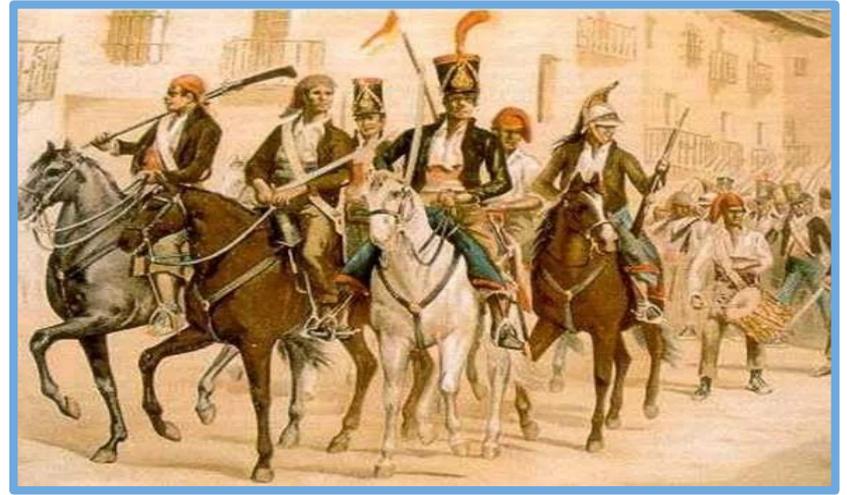


Despite being for about two years with this band, where he learned a lot, José, at 18, created his own . He specialized in assaults on carriages, especially the Treasure of the Kingdom.



King Fernando VII didn't know how to stop these great waves of bandits that were taking place in the south of Spain and commanded large battles of soldiers, 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 was able to distribute more money to his companions than to himself. If a town was in a precarious situation, he gave money in exchange for refuge and 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 taxes.

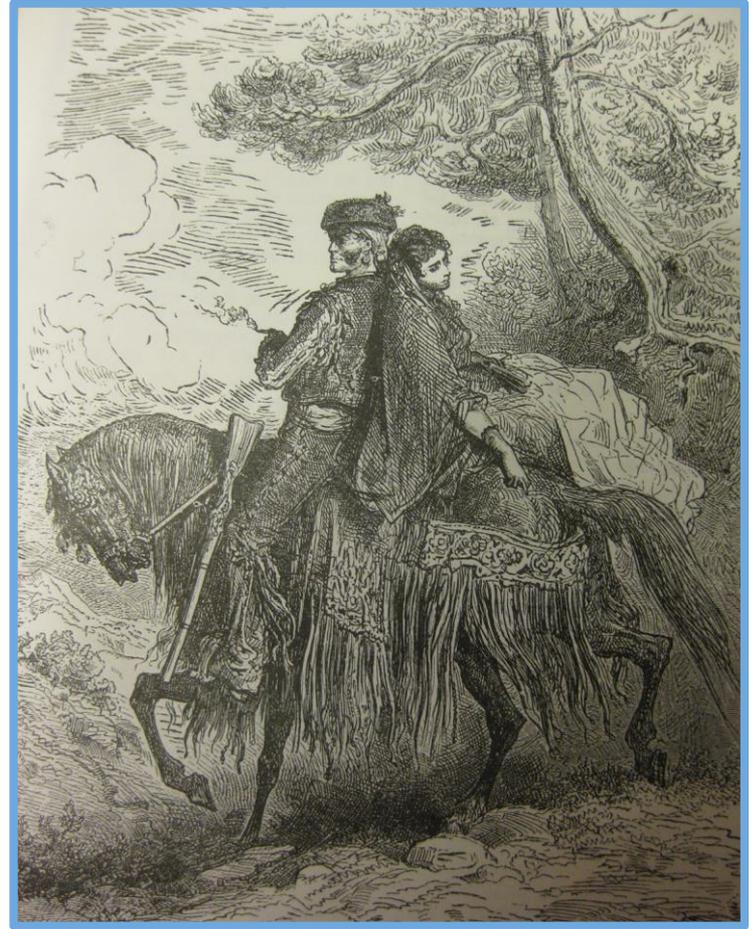
Apart from his assaults and crimes, it was shown that he wasn't a perverse or ruthless murderer, like other known bandits. He treated the ladies he robbed very well. When he assaulted a carriage he was the first to help them down by offering his arm, then he took them to the shade telling them "those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





He married María Jerónima Francés, a young and beautiful woman from Cádiz, who became pregnant and when she was about to give birth in a farmhouse in Grazalema, the migueletes surrounded the farmhouse and attacked. “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, his son in the belt and 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, in respect of 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, urging to follow him to be free and not arrested., but if not, he would personally search them and take them to prison. Thus, a fight began between bandits well devised by the King.

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

