

**Chapter 8: Narciso Claveria y Zaldúa: the 71th Governor General from Spain to the Philippines July 16, 1844 – December 26, 1849**

*“We found the man who signed the Town Establishment of Aliaga, Nueva Ecija; and Decree of Parish Establishment of Nuestra Señora De Las Saleras.” (Moreno 2023)*



*(Narciso Claveria y Zaldúa)*

***Narciso José Anastasio Clavería y Zaldúa***, 1st Count of Manila (Catalan: Narcís Josep Anastasi Claveria i Zaldúa) May 2, 1795 – June 20, 1851 was a Spanish army officer who served as the Governor-General of the Philippines from July 16, 1844, to December 26, 1849.

Narciso Clavería was a native of the Catalan city of Gerona, Spain, whose mother was of Basque origin. He became a member of Spain's General Staff in 1838, colonel in 1839, and lieutenant general in 1844. He became governor of the Philippines on July 16, 1844.

**Governor-General of the Philippines**

Clavería, who by this time held the title of Lieutenant General, arrived at the port of Manila on the evening of July 13, 1844, aboard the British ship *Margaret* and was accompanied by one of his children, an aide, Joseph Roche, and a servant. His wife followed days later. He landed on the next morning at the King's Wharf, given military honors befitting his status, given temporary accommodation, and received the congratulations of all the dignitaries of the city. He was given a banquet that very night and he officially took possession of his position as Chief Executive of Las Islas Filipinas on the 15th.

At the start of his official working day on the 16th Narciso Claveria gave two impassioned speeches. He first addressed the military and told them that their exploits were well known in the Peninsula. He then reminded them to fulfill their duties to the public. After this he addressed the general public and told the colony that compared to other colonies the Philippines appeared to be more prosperous. He finished his speech by expressing the hope that by the end of his term the Philippines would become a rich, flourishing, and tranquil state.

Based on most of the existing documents it becomes very clear that Claveria was a man who was very cultured, hard-working, courteous, and extremely honest. The slightest concerns in the colony caught his attention and it is said that he invited different people from different walks of life to join him at his table so he could get a better feel of the colony. He also believed that in

order to understand the diversity of the people and problems facing the colony he needed to see them firsthand, and thus he was perhaps the most travelled Governor-General throughout the 333 years of Spanish occupation of the Philippines.

He brought change and development to the Philippines such as: calendar in Philippines corrected, 1844; makes reforms in office of alcalde-mayor, 1844; founds casino called “Sociedad de recreo” (“Recreation Association”), October 31, 1844; his proposal to establish military library approved, February 15, 1846; first steam war-vessels in the Philippines bought (in London), 1848; conquest of island of Balanguingui, 1848, for which he receives the titles of count of Manila and viscount of Claveria, and the cross of San Fernando, besides other rewards; regular clergy forbidden to alienate property, January 15, 1849; surnames given to natives, November 11, 1849; his term marked by intense activity, and the number of papers founded, among them being the first daily of Manila, *La Esperanza* (December 1, 1846), and *Diario de Manila* (1848); asks retirement and returns to Spain, December 26, 1849; term as Governor-General from July 16, 1844– December 26, 1849.

### Highlights of his works

1. Corrected the Philippine Calendar
2. Reformed Office of Alcalde-Mayor (Governor)
3. Founded Casino called “Sociedad de Recreo”
4. Established Military Library
5. Bought the first steam war-vessels for the Philippines
6. Regular clergy forbidden to alienate property
7. Surnames given to natives Filipino
8. Founded Newspaper; the first daily of Manila “*La Esperanza*” and “*Diario de Manila*”

In September 2023, Mr. Xavier Naldoza Apostol, our research team, uncovered the two most important documents retrieved from Archdiocese of Manila, which are the Town Establishment of Aliaga, Nueva Ecija; and Decree of Parish Establishment of Nuestra Señora De Las Saleras.

**The documents confirmed the new discovery of Aliaga Town’s Establishment was on January 3, 1849. The Decree of Church Establishment called Parish de Aliaga, Nueva Ecija was on February 27, 1849 with no mention of the name nor logo of our Patron, Nuestra Señora De Las Saleras.**

Figure: Town Establishment of Aliaga, Nueva Ecija on 3 January 1849

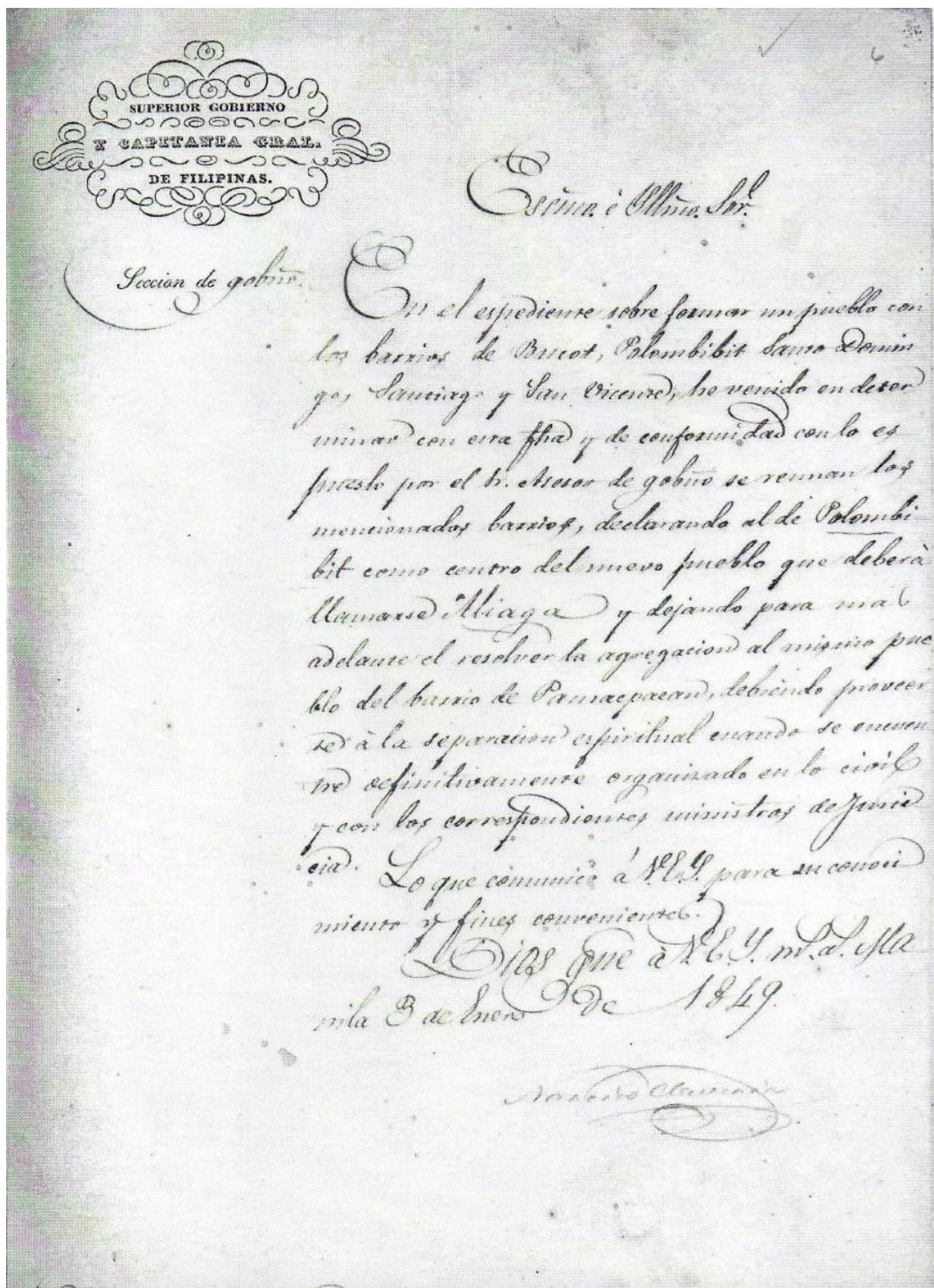
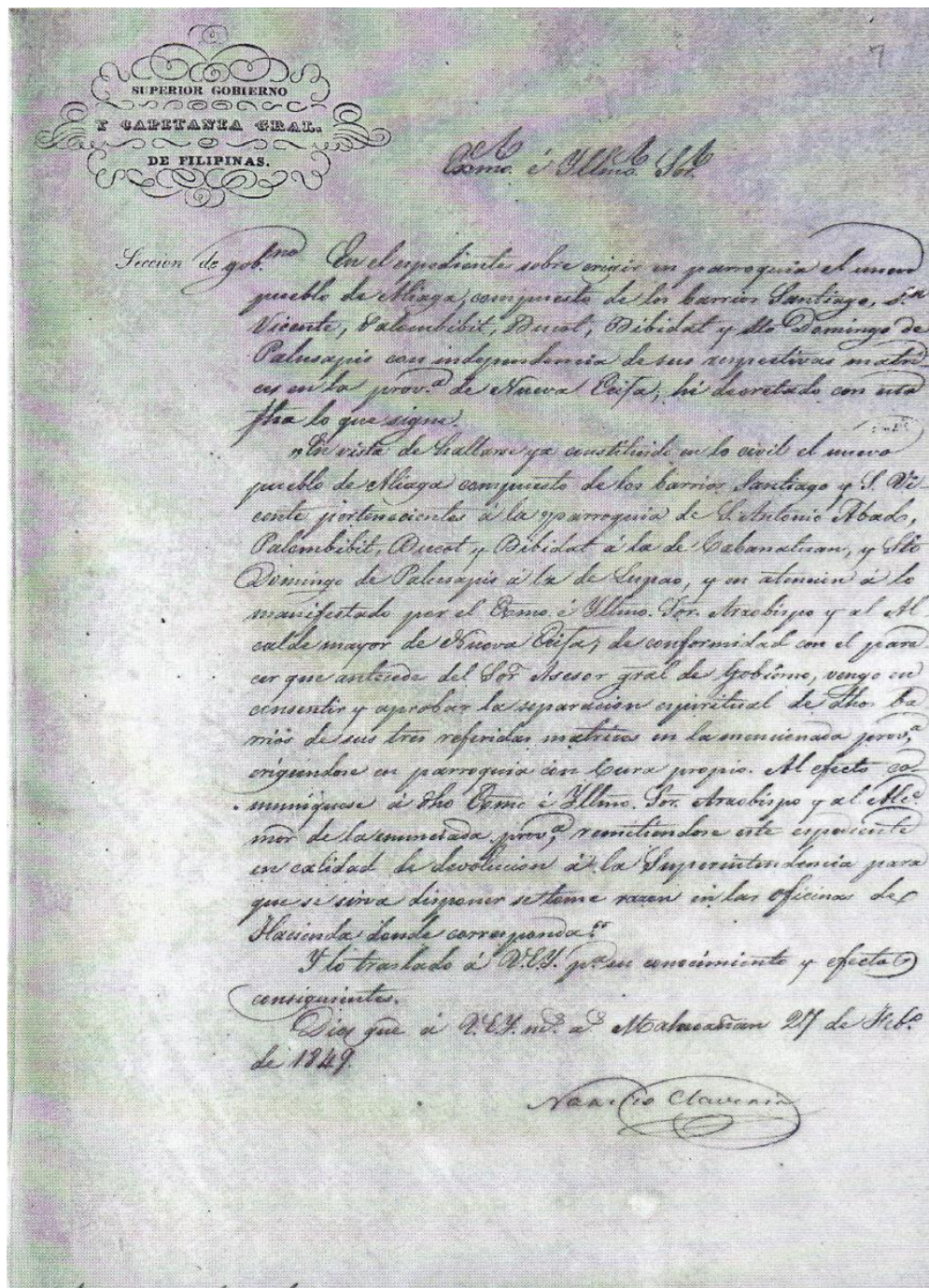




Figure: Parish Establishment in the Town of Aliaga on February 27, 1849  
(Presently known as Nuestra Señora De Las Saleras)





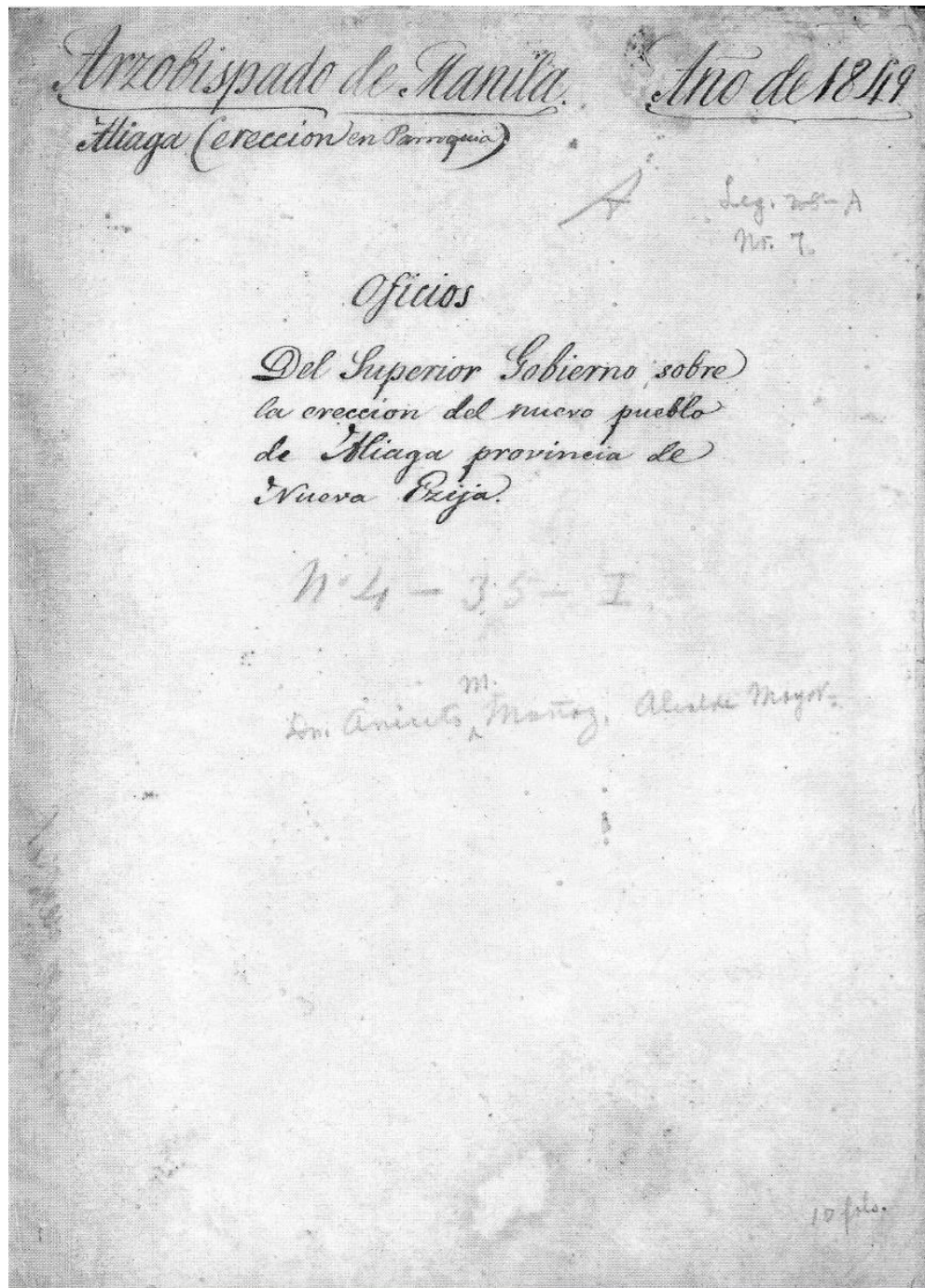


Figure: Other supporting church document (original stamp of Immaculate Conception 1885)


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Número de Bautismos Garantados y Enteros pagados en la parroquia de San Antonio de los Baños.

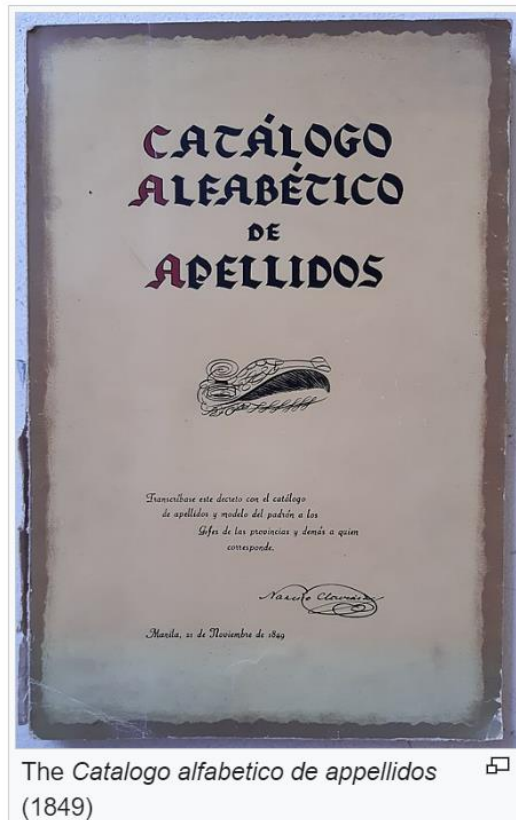
Bautismos año n.º

Bautismos	1879-1880	Garantados	id 126	Enteros	id 902.
F.º	1880-1881	F.º	id 144	F.º	id 128.
F.º	1881-1882	F.º	id 162	F.º	id 146.
F.º	1882-1883	F.º	id 179	F.º	id 163.
F.º	1883-1884	F.º	id 197	F.º	id 181.

Con Parroquia de San Antonio de los Baños 22 de Setiembre 1884.







Clavería is widely recognized as a reformist and modernizing administrator. He traveled through many provinces trying to learn the needs of Filipinos. He encouraged agriculture, improved the streets and suburbs of Manila, and succeeded in helping the country. He was given the title Count of Manila. The towns of Claveria in Misamis Oriental province, Claveria in Masbate province, and Claveria in Cagayan province were named in his honor. His grandson, Narciso Clavería y de Palacios, 3rd Count of Manila, was an architect who designed the Toledo Railway Station.

## Acts as Governor-General of the Philippines

### Reformation of the Philippine Calendar

The Philippines from 1521 to 1844 was one day behind the calendars of Asia, Europe and America. When Ferdinand Magellan sailed west around the world, he lost a few minutes every day. He was going the same way the sun was going, so his day ended later than that of the people who remained in Europe. Therefore, he was later in beginning the next day. By the time he reached the Philippines, he was a day behind Europe on his date. This error had been known for centuries. Finally, Clavería and the Archbishop of Manila agreed to remove Tuesday, December 31, 1844, from the Philippine calendar. So the day after Monday, December 30, 1844, was called Wednesday, January 1, 1845.

### **Surnames for Filipinos**

Known as [\*Catálogo alfabético de apellidos\*](#)

From the days of the Spanish conquest, some Filipinos had received Spanish surnames. Most people, however, had no surnames, which caused confusion. On Wednesday, November 21, 1849, Clavería issued a decree sending long lists of Spanish and local surnames to the chiefs of the provinces. These were sent out to the different towns, and given to the locals who had no surnames. In many towns, all the names for people in that town began with the same letter of the alphabet. For instance, surnames starting with "A" applies for those who lived in Alimodian (Iloilo Province) while those starting "M" apply for those who lived in Miagao (Iloilo Province).

### **First Steamships in the Philippines**

The first steam-powered warships to sail regularly in Philippine waters were the *Magallanes*, *Elcano*, and *Reina de Castilla*. They were brought from London in 1848. These steamships were of great value because now it was possible to chase and capture the swift boats of the Moro pirates from the South who used to raid the coastal villages north of them.

### **Spanish Expedition to Balanguingui**

One of the most pressing issues Claveria faced was the problem of piracy in the south of the colony. While there were many Spanish defeats from pirates during his term he also had many victories. One of these was a military expedition to the Isle of Balanguingui located in Joló, Sulu. Achipiélago, Balanguingui was always considered as one of the main pirate havens, and this victory against the pirates set back piracy in that area for the next few years. This victory was also the primary basis of the conferment of the title of Count of Manila to Claveria, which was granted by the Spanish crown on July 29, 1848.

Overall, Claveria's exploits against the pirates were lauded in Spain and even some of the European powers which had possessions in nearby colonies congratulated Claveria for his victories. What was more amazing about Narciso Claveria was that he personally led his troops in these expeditions; unlike many of his predecessors or successor, including modern Philippines's leaders, Claveria was not afraid to lead his troops against the enemies of the colony. Historians agree that this is another trait that made Claveria a very interesting and deserving leader.

Clavería organised an amphibious campaign against the pirates of the Samal Islands. He destroyed several towns and forts on the island of Balanguingui, between the islands of Basilan and Jolo, and released one hundred and thirty Filipino and Dutch captives (from Java) in 1848. For this successful military operation he received the titles of Count of Manila and Viscount of Clavería, and received the Knight Grand Cross of Royal and Military Order of San Fernando from Queen Isabella II, besides other rewards.

### **Reforming the Governors of the Provinces**

From the earliest days, the chief of a province had acted both as governor and judge. He also engaged in trade, of which he had a monopoly. With multiple duties, it was not strange that the



governors were often poor rulers. They knew little of the law and therefore they sent all the important cases to Manila. For this reason there were often long delays in processing cases. Sometimes it required years to get justice and this encouraged the strong to oppress the weak. Clavería therefore ordered that the governors be men of two years experience in the law.

Clavería mandated that the governors should not engage in trade. This decree was not fully obeyed for many years after the time of Clavería. At that time there were thirty-one provinces. The governor received a salary of from three hundred to two thousand Philippine pesos a year. The most common salary was six hundred pesos. In return for the privilege of controlling the trade of the provinces the governors paid the government as high as three thousand pesos a year. Yet they usually became rich. Men of high position tried to get these places. Sometimes they returned to Spain with fortunes, after a few years as governor. Often these fortunes were made by dealing unjustly or because of the monopoly they exerted in certain areas.

### **Other acts during his term**

A casino called "Sociedad de recreo" ("Recreation Association") was established on Thursday, October 31, 1844. His proposal to establish military library was approved on Sunday, February 15, 1846. A monument to Ferdinand Magellan was erected on the south bank of the Pasig River in 1848. The regular clergy were forbidden to alienate property on Monday, January 15, 1849. His term was marked by intense activity, and a number of papers were founded, among them being the first daily newspaper of Manila, *La Esperanza* (Tuesday, December 1, 1846), and *Diario de Manila* (1848).

### **Return to Spain**

In 1849, Clavería requested that he be allowed to retire. After which he left the position of Governor-General and returned to Spain. He was a man of culture, probity, and industry. He was made a [senator](#) in 1850 but died the following year on June 20 in [Madrid](#), Spain.

Because of his work load, his unending zeal to spread prosperity in all parts of the colony coupled with his ceaseless travels and the climate of the Philippines, Claveria's health took a disastrous turn. By 1849 Claveria was said to be quite emaciated and very sick, and the Spanish crown allowed him to return to Spain to recuperate.

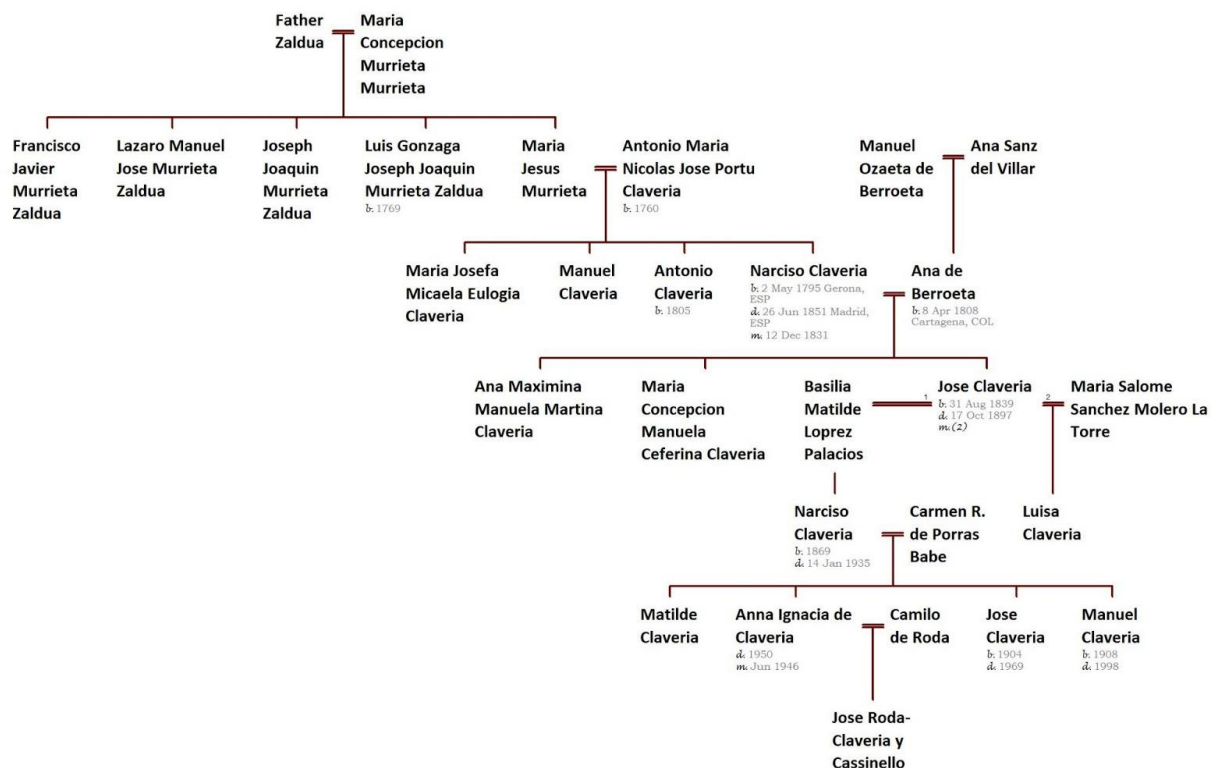
Amazingly, Claveria first decided to go to the sea and hoped this would cure him. He travelled the various provinces in the Visayas but this only contributed to his deterioration. He declined to return immediately and instead asked that he first be certified by a medical commission to see if his declining health could be cured in the Philippines.

The medical team concluded that he would need the mild climate of the Spanish Peninsula to heal and continued stay in the warm, moist environment of the colony would seriously jeopardize his life. Before departing the colony he made sure that there would be a smooth transition of power and he appointed Antonio Ma. Blanco as interim Governor-General.

Claveria, together with his family, left the Philippines on Christmas day of 1849 aboard the steamer Reina del Castile, first stopping by Singapore then on a Suez route to Marseille and finally to Madrid, where he was presented to the Queen.

Although he became a Senator for life, he died on June 26, 1851, barely two years since returning to Spain, having served 49 years in the army. At the time of his death he was also awarded the Knight Grand Cross Order of Isabel of the Catholic, San Fernando & San Hemergildo while his widow Ana was a Dame of the Order of Maria Luisa.

#### The Family of Narciso Claveria



Many Filipino historians throughout the years have disparaged historical figures who bore titles of nobility, usually writing them as self-styled. Claveria was one of these accused of calling himself Conde de Manila. However, patents of nobility were indeed granted to Narciso Claveria on July 29, 1848, giving him the right to bear the title of Count of Manila, a title that still exists to this very day.

One interesting trait of the Claveria family is their small size as a family. Narciso Claveria, for instance, had just one sister and 2 brothers. Narciso and his wife had three children, 2 girls and a boy. This son, Jose Claveria y Berroeta, succeeded Narciso as Conde de Manila in 1851 upon Narciso's demise.



Jose Claveria, the 2nd Count of Manila, was born on August 31, 1839. He married Basilia Matilde Palacio y Lopez and they had a son, Narciso Claveria. After Basilia's death Jose remarried to Maria Salome Sanchez Molero La Torre and they had one child, Luisa Claveria.

Jose's only son, Narciso, became the 3rd Count of Manila upon the death of Jose Claveria on October 17, 1897. Narciso II became a very famous architect and his most famous work was the Toledo Railway Station, considered as one of the historical architectures of the early 20th century and is now touted as one of the most beautiful stations in Spain. Narciso married Carmen de Babe y Roda de Porras and had four children: Jose, Manuel, Matilde, and Ana Ignacia.

The next two Condes de Manila were the brothers Jose and Manuel de Claveria. It does not appear that they were married or had children. Jose took over the countship in 1935 upon the death of his father and bore the title until his own death in 1969. He was then succeeded by his brother, Manuel, who only received the title in 1972 and held this title until his death in 1998. His nephew, Jose Roda-Claveria, succeeded to the title in 2000.

### **The Current Conde de Manila**

With Manuel's death the direct male lineal descent of the Countship of Manila ended. The title was then passed on to the nearest male relative of Manuel, Don Jose Roda-Claveria y Cassinello, the son of Ana Ignacia de Claveria, Manuel's sister. Ana Ignacia was married to Don Camilo de Roda, an engineer whose family was also of the Spanish nobility. Don Jose still holds the title of Count of Manila today.

**Narciso Clavería y de Palacios, 3rd Count of Manila** (1869–1935) was a Spanish architect, notable as an exponent of the Moorish revival style known as Neo-Mudéjar. He was the grandson of Narciso Clavería y Zaldúa, a nineteenth-century Governor General of the Philippines from whom he inherited the title of Count of Manila.

Working for the railway company *Compañía de los Ferrocarriles de Madrid a Zaragoza y Alicante* (MZA), Clavería designed Toledo railway station, his best-known building. Clavería incorporated references to Toledo's architectural heritage, which he had spent some time photographing. The facility features a spacious hall with Moorish revival decoration and a clock-tower. The smaller station at Algodor, between Toledo and Aranjuez, is also attributed to Clavería.

Figure: Toledo Railway Station opened on June 12, 1858 (Spain)



The railway reached Toledo in 1858. The original station was of functional design and was opened on 12 June 1858 by Isabella II of Spain, accompanied by Francisco de Asís, Duke of Cádiz. The present station opened on 24 April 1919. It was designed to echo the historic architecture of the city. The central section is flanked by two side naves, one of which is adjacent to the clock tower, which imitates the style of Toledo church towers.

The railway company responsible for the construction of Toledo station, the *Compañía de los Ferrocarriles de Madrid a Zaragoza y Alicante*, also built other stations in Neo-Mudejar style such as that of Aranjuez.

The station has been declared a Property of Cultural Interest and classified as a monument. It was restored in the twenty-first century in connection with the inauguration of the Madrid–Toledo high-speed rail line in 2005. The old line along the Tagus valley in the direction of Aranjuez has been dismantled, and Toledo no longer has a conventional line.

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Archdiocese of Manila. Archives.

Chronological List of the Governors of the Philippines 1565–1899 and the Administration of the Islands (Spanish Governor)

<https://kahimyang.com/kauswagan/articles/1091/chronological-list-of-the-governors-of-the-philippines-1565-1899-and-the-administration-of-the-islands>



Family tree Claveria. <https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-XiZUdD0KHCI/UbbDXO3yhuI/AAAAAAAAAFa/aDFdwPnxykE/s1600/The+Family+of+Narciso+Claveria.jpg>

Filipino Genealogist <https://www.filipinogenealogy.com/2013/06/tracing-claverias-genealogy-through.html>

Narciso Clavería y Zaldúa was a Spanish army officer who served as the **Governor-General of the Philippines** from July 16, 1844, to December 26, 1849.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narciso\\_Claver%C3%ADa\\_y\\_Zald%C3%B3a](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narciso_Claver%C3%ADa_y_Zald%C3%B3a)

The Philippine Islands, 1493–1898 Volume XVII, 1609–1616, pages 283-313, The Project Gutenberg EBook of The Philippine Islands, 1493-1898: Volume XVII, 1609-1616 Edited and annotated by Emma Helen Blair and James Alexander Robertson (**Complete list** of Spanish Governor-Generals who ruled the "Las Esclas Filipinas" from 1565 to 1899.)

Toledo railway station

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toledo\\_railway\\_station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toledo_railway_station)