

## Notes on possible relationships between Simón de Gabiola y Zabala and Juan Francisco Bodega y Quadra and others involved in the Spanish naval expeditions that visited Gabriola Island BC in 1791 and 1792

by Nick Doe

These notes are a post-publication supplement to [Notes on the family of Simón de Gabiola \(Gaviola\) y Zabala](#) (*SILT* 12, January 2015) which in turn is a supplement to [The origin of Gabriola's name](#) (*SHALE* 13, June 2006). Familiarity with these articles is assumed in these notes. **The notes are in draft form and may be updated from time-to-time.**

One of the difficulties of persuading pundits that Gabriola Island's name, which is easily traceable back to the Spanish *Punta de Gabiola* (*Gaviola*), is in honour of Simón de Gabiola y Zabala, a Spanish aristocrat in charge of naval affairs, is that Simón de Gabiola worked in Seville during the first half of the 17th century, long before the Spanish expeditions arrived on Vancouver Island in the late-18th century. Placenames were more commonly assigned by the expeditionaries to living dignitaries than historical ones.

This “problem” was addressed at length, to my satisfaction at least, in the article, “the origin of Gabriola's name” but I have continued ever since to keep my eye out for any additional information that might strength the connection between Simón de Gabiola and the expeditionaries, particularly with the Spanish commandant of San Blas, Juan Francisco Bodega Quadra y Mollinedo, more usually known by historians and biographers as Juan Francisco (de la) Bodega y Quadra.\* He is the person who undoubtedly came up with the name *Punta de Gabiola*.

\* Juan Francisco Bodega y Quadra's father was Tomás de la Bodega y las Llanas, a very influential figure in Lima, Perú where Juan Francisco was born. Juan Francisco's mother was Francisca de Mollinedo so he would normally have been named “Juan Francisco de Bodega y Mollinedo”. However, because his paternal grandfather was Juan de la Bodega y la Quadra, and “Quadra” was a prestigious family name, he followed his father's example in calling himself, with permission, “Juan Francisco de Bodega Quadra y Mollinedo”. This confusingly for historians is frequently written “de Bodega y Quadra”, which implies that his mother's name was Quadra, which it was not. Some writers carry this confusion even further by calling him just “Quadra”. His link with the main branch of the Quadra family was actually through his paternal grandfather's mother, who was Isabel de La Quadra. Juan Francisco's brother, the eldest son of Tomás de la Bodega y las Llanas (known as Tomás de la Bodega y Quadra), was Tomás Aniceto de Bodega Quadra y Mollinedo, but he is also often known as Tomás de la Bodega y Quadra. To present-day genealogists chagrin, giving the eldest son the same name (*nombre y apellido*) as the father was common practice at the time.

These are my additional notes, so far.

---

## 1. Torre de La Quadra



In an article in the series *Patrimonio Histórico de Bizkaia* entitled *Torre de La Quadra (Güeñes)*, which is in the Salcedo valley, the author remarks that this ancestral home

of the aristocratic La Quadra (Cuadra) family was built back in the early-15th century and that the lineage stems from an illegitimate son of Ordoño de Zamudio (Çamudio), who settled here in at a time when there were hostilities between various factions in the Spanish Basque country.<sup>1</sup>

The description of the *torre* (a stately home with defendable upper stories) remarks that there is an ogee-shaped window on which were carved two shields with the arms of the Zamudio and Salcedo families.

Here it has to be noted that:

a) the process of Juan Francisco Bodega y Quadra becoming a *Cabellero de la Orden de Santiago* (Knight of the Order of St. James) required him, or required him to pay somebody, to delve deeply into his genealogy, so it is unlikely that he was unaware of the history of the *torre*. The ancestral estate of the Bodega family adjoins that of the Quadra family in the Spanish Basque province of Bizkaia (*Vizcaya*);

b) Simón de Gabiola y Zabala, also a *Cabellero de la Orden de Santiago*, who was from the Spanish Basque province of Gipuzkoa (*Guipúzcoa*), was married to Francisca de Zamudio and one of their daughters, Mariana de Gabiola y Zamudio, was married to Diego López de Salcedo.

This doesn't necessarily mean, and probably doesn't, that there were still close connections between all members of the Quadra, Zamudio, and Salcedo families in the late-18th century—there had been time enough for the families to grow in numbers and grow apart—but somebody might have noticed the co-incidences, if that is what they effectively were;

c) it doesn't mean a whole lot, but I note that the *Casa de Gabiola* (the ancestral home of the Gabiola family) near Mendaro has an ogee-shaped doorway.<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Malaspina and the *Conde de Peñaflores*

Alessandro (*Alejandro*) Malaspina (1754–1810) was the Italian nobleman who was in charge of the 1789–94 expedition that explored and mapped the west coast of the Americas. He was the commanding officer of Dionisio Alcalá Galiano and Cayetano Valdés y Flores who visited Gabriola in 1792.

The expedition was devoted to scientific research and was intended to restore Spain's tarnished image as colonisers in the Americas and have the country join the Age of Enlightenment, an objective that Malaspina enthusiastically pursued, too vigorously as it turned out for his own good.

Another famous enlightenment figure in Spain was Xavier María de Munibe e

---

<sup>1</sup> Zamudio, Salcedo, and La Quadra are all places on the outskirts of Bilbao in Bizkaia. The detailed genealogy of the family in his early period is too complicated for me to follow.

---

<sup>2</sup> [The original Gabriola in the Spanish Basque country](#), *SILT* 11, p.9, 2014.

---

Idiáquez, Conde de Peñaflorida (1723–1785). He founded the *Real Sociedad Bascongada de Amigos del País* (Royal Basque Society of Friends of the Country) with the aim of encouraging scientific, cultural, and economic development. He was the author of many works.

While it is very unlikely that Malaspina and the older *Conde de Peñaflorida* met, conversed, or corresponded; it seems hard to imagine that Malaspina was completely unaware of the Count's activities and their sharing of enlightenment views.

Xavier María de Munibe could trace his lineage back to include Rodrigo de Gabiola and Juana de Arriola, the paternal grandparents of Simón de Gabiola y Zabala. The Count owned the ancestral home of the Gabiola's in the Kilimon valley near Mendaro, and he lived in Azkoitia, which is not far from Elgoibar, where he also had property.

### 3. The “Newspaper Readers’ Digest” of June 23, 1788

A curious periodical published in Madrid in the late-18th century was *Espiritu de los mejores diarios que se publican en Europa, dedicado a Los Literatos y Curiosos de España* (Spirit of the top daily newspapers in Europe dedicated to the literati and curious of Spain).

In the June 23, 1788, edition (#134), there is a remarkable list of subscribers to this periodical, which appears to include anyone who was anyone in Madrid at the time plus a few others. It begins with El Rey, nuestro Señor (the King of Spain, Carlos III) and has as its penultimate named reader in the list, El Dr. D. Benjamin Franklin of New York.

Other notables (from our perspective) were:

El Excmo. Sr. Conde de Floridablanca (José Moñino y Redondo, Prime Minister, and the Spanish name for the Fraser River)—4 copies;

El Excmo. Sr. D. Antonio Valdés y Bazán (the uncle of Cayetano Valdés and the Minister in charge of the Navy);

El Excmo. Sr. D. Antonio Porlier (Porlier Pass in the Gulf Islands);

La Excma. Sra. Condesa de Campo de Alange (her husband was Minister of War, Spanish name for Cape Mudge);

El Excmo. Sr. D. Rudesindo Tilly (the brother of Francisco Javier Everardo Tilly after whom Berry Point, *Punta de Casa Tilly*, on Gabriola was named);

El Excmo. Sr. Conde de Revillagigedo (Juan Vicente de Güemes Padilla Horcasitas y Aguayo, shortly before he became Viceroy of New Spain and Bodega y Quadra's superior);

El Dr. D. Josef de la Quadra (?);

El Conde de Peñaflorida (Antonio María de Munibe y Areizaga, holder of the Gabiola birthright);

D. Juan Caamaño (family name for an island in Puget Sound);

Fr. D. Pedro Agustín Galiano (a relative?);

D. Manuel Antonio de Arce (relative of Admiral Antonio de Arce?, Spanish name for Cockburn Point);

and several others whose family names occur in placenames on the BC, Alaska, and Washington coasts. Oh! and one more:

D. Francisco Antonio Gabiola.

Who he was and how he was related to the original Gabiola family remains to be discovered, but he must have been a “somebody” in Madrid in the late 1700s. ◇