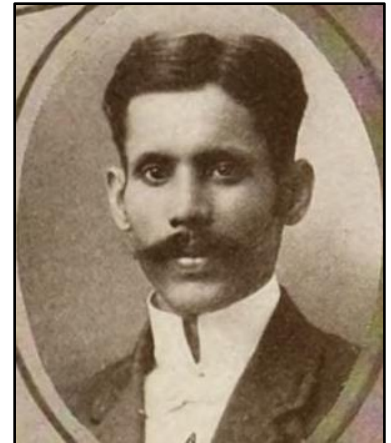


# Juan Cailles y Kauppama

Teacher, Filipino Freedom Fighter, Census Bureau Supervisor, Governor

The U.S. Census Bureau has always highlighted American diversity through its decennial snapshots of the population. As the United States grew and the population became more diverse, the Census Bureau's workforce adapted to represent the country's people and needs. As immigration from non-European countries increased in the 19th century, the Census Bureau tried to hire enumerators who spoke the same language and lived in the same neighborhoods as the people they counted. Others were hired to help with operations in Washington, DC. From the first surges of Chinese immigration into California in the 19th century, immigrants of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage have long contributed to the Census Bureau's mission, both at headquarters and in the field.



**Juan Cailles y Kauppama**  
From the 1903 Census of the Philippines.

Born on November 10, 1871, in Nasugbu, Batangas, Juan Cailles y Kauppama, lived with his French father, Hippolyte Cailles, his Anglo-Indian mother, Maria Kaauppama, four older siblings, and two younger siblings. While the current historical record is vague about his education, Juan graduated from Ateneo de Manila University in 1890 and worked as a teacher in four different public schools over 5 years.



**Brigadier General Juan Cailles (right) surrenders to U.S. forces in June 1901.**

*U.S. National Archives, 111-sc-98028*

With the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution on August 24, 1898, in Manila, Juan organized his pupils' fathers into an organized fighting unit and earned numerous promotions as he fought the Spanish forces. By the end of the of the Filipino's revolt against the Spanish, Juan commanded the Battalion Trias as a brigadier general in General Emilio Aguinaldo's, the leader of the Filipino revolutionary army, forces. Although the Filipinos' revolt against the Spanish ended in victory, Juan and many other Filipino revolutionaries worried about the danger posed by the American forces, although they had helped them defeat the Spanish, and

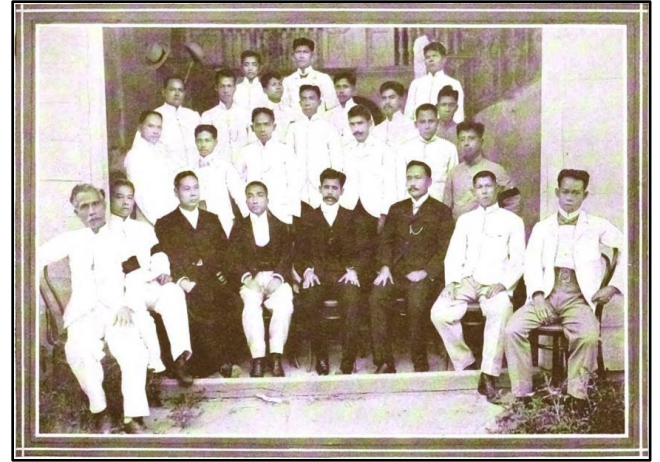
commenced hostiles in February 1899.

During the war's early months, Juan fought U.S. forces using conventional military tactics and even defeated a significant American force under Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin F. Cheetham at the Battle of Mabitac, on September 17, 1900. However, Juan resorted to using guerilla warfare after U.S. forces occupied the Laguna province and other provinces in Luzon. Following a series of military and political setbacks, Juan surrendered to U.S. forces on June 24, 1901. While military leaders typically punished insurrectionist leaders, U.S. government officials paid Juan \$5,000 for his troops to give-up their weapons, appointed him governor of Laguna, and tasked him with assisting the American military's efforts to end threats posed by Juan's former comrades.

A little more than 1 year after Juan's surrender, the U.S. Congress passed the Philippine Organic Act of 1902 and officially declared an end to the conflict. Under the act, a representational

Philippine Assembly would govern the Philippines, and this required a census of the islands. However, the Organic Act stipulated that the U.S. could not conduct a census until the cessation of hostilities and that the formation of the Assembly could only happen if 2 years of peace followed the completion of the census. Therefore, the 1903 Census of the Philippine Islands had major implications for the governance of the islands.

Because of this idea of a new government coupled with widespread illiteracy and mistrust of the American government, the Census Bureau determined that the provincial governors should be the district supervisors of the census. Although some of the governors were relics of the old Spanish system of cronyism, Juan won his local election to continue serving as Laguna's governor in 1902 and was thus prepared to serve as a supervisor for the 1903 Census of the Philippines. In December 1902, Juan spent 2 weeks in Manila going over the district maps and learning how to conduct the census. In mid-January, all the governor-supervisors collected their materials in Manila for distribution to and training of their enumerators and special agents, who then passed on their training to the local presidentes (mayors). On March 2, 1903, the Philippine census began, and Juan successfully spearheaded the count of 418,616 people in the Province of La Laguna.



**Governor-Supervisor Juan Cailles (front-center) and Presidentes, Province of La Laguna (Tagalogs), c. 1903.**

*From the 1903 Census of the Philippines.*

Following the success of the 1903 Census, Juan continued to serve as the province's governor until 1910 when he lost his re-election bid. Juan would eventually serve as Laguna's governor on three more separate occasions (1916–1925, 1932–1938, and for part of 1945). After his second term, Juan served as the Mountain Province representative to Philippine Legislature from 1925–1931.

During his time various terms as governor, Juan encouraged his constituents to send exhibition materials for the larger Philippines Exhibit at the 1904 St. Louis Exposition; fought bandits terrorizing local communities, proposed a plan to build a road from Pagsanjan, Laguna, to Maubuan, Tayabas, thus creating a transportation route between Laguna de Bay and the Pacific Ocean (1904); and suppressed the Sakdal Uprising, which began on May 2, 1935, among a host of other accomplishments.

Ultimately, the current historic record is silent about Juan's final 4 decades of life. We know that Juan married Emilia Trinidad Prudente and they had one child together. However, he also had 11 children with other partners. On June 28, 1951, Juan died from a heart attack and was buried at the Old Cemetery of Santa Cruz, Laguna. In 2014, the government transferred Juan's remains to Libingan ng mga Bayani, one of the Philippines's national cemeteries that serves as the final resting place for significant figures in Filipino history. Today both the U.S. Census Bureau and the people of the Philippines remain grateful for Juan's service as a teacher, warrior, Census Bureau supervisor, and public servant.



**Juan Cailles statue at Gen. J. Cailles Memorial District Hospital in Pakil, Laguna.**  
*Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons*