



Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Isabela  
ISABELA TOURISM OFFICE



## HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA

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### First Settlers

During the Stone Age, around 25,000 years ago, dark skinned and kinky haired pygmies arrived in northeast Luzon. The descendants of the nomadic Aetas (or Negritos) were the Dumagats now settling and roaming in the forested Sierra Madre mountain range in eastern Isabela and Aurora province. Aetas can be found at the slopes in the City of Ilagan, San Mariano and the four coastal towns of Divilacan, Maconacon, Palanan and Dinapigue.

The term "Aeta" is the oldest term to refer to the pygmies from Isabela, Pampanga, Tayabas (now Quezon & Aurora provinces), Bataan, Bulacan and Antique. Before the arrival of the Spaniards, old Chinese documents of the 13<sup>th</sup> century recorded the name of the inhabitants as "Haitan" which probably came from the Tagalog word "itim" or "hitam" in Malay referring to the dark complexion of the natives. Different name forms were used to refer to the Aetas like "Ita", "Eta", "Aita", "Agtas" among others. In the document *Census of the Philippine Islands (1900-1916)* under the "Classification of Non-Christian Tribes", "Negrito" meaning "small Negro" was used to refer to the dark-skinned curly haired pygmies the same term used by the Spaniards as reflected in old Spanish documents like the book *Relación de Encomiendas* (1591) and *Relación de las Islas Filipinas* (1604).

Between 200 BC & 1500 AD, the three waves of Malay settled. They were the pagans ancestors of the Irrayas/Ibanags (in the towns of San Pablo, Santa Maria, Santo Tomas, Cabagan, Tumauni, Ilagan and Delfin Albano), Gaddangs (in the towns of Angadanan, parts of Aurora, Cauayan, Gamu, Reina Mercedes, Naguilian and parts of Tumauni and Santiago), Yogads (in the towns of Echague, Jones and San Isidro), Kalingas (in the towns of Aurora, Cabatuan, Luna, Mallig, Quezon, Roxas and San Manuel) and other original tribes of the valley, built a civilization based on corn agriculture and organized themselves around the fundamental political unit called the *barangay*.

### Early Spanish Period

On March 16, 1521, the expedition of Ferdinand Magellan arrived in what is now the Philippines but it was only the expedition of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi who was able to colonize the islands under the crown of Spain in 1565. Legazpi's team reached Luzon and established Manila on June 24, 1571 and his grandson Captain Juan de Salcedo who conquered most of Luzon including what is now Cagayan province. In 1583, Cagayan, from where the future Isabela province would be carved, was recognized as an *alcaldia* and officially called *La Provincia del Valle de Cagayan*. The old settlement of Lal-loc (now Lal-lo) was christened *Ciudad de Nueva Segovia* and made the capital of this vast province.

In 1591, Don Luis Pérez Dasmariñas entered La Irraya by way of Nueva Vizcaya and found one of the villages deserted by the natives after killing seven Spaniards who had come up the river from Cagayan. La Irraya (Addaya and Yrraya in other manuscripts) region comprised the vast area from Tuguegarao in Cagayan province up to the present Gamu town. *Irraya* was also the term used for the native's name and their dialect. *Irraya* is an Ibanag word which means *upriver*. In the Gaddang dialect, the term *drraya* also means *upriver*.

In 1594, upon orders of Governor-General (1590-1593) Gómez Pérez Dasmariñas, Captain Fernando de Berramontano invaded and conquered the Irraya. The villages of Tubigarao (Tuguegarao), Maquila, Pilitan, Bolo, Batavag, Furo (Purao in other manuscripts) and Lapogan were subdued. The vanquished Irraya chiefs were Labinaman Darrey of Tubigarao, Sibay of Pilitan, Batoniman of Maquila, Manoto and Sino of Bolo and Zuaduban of Furo.

On August 14, 1595, the whole territory, including what is now Isabela province, was put under the newly created Diocese of Nueva Segovia with Fray Miguel de Benavides y Añoza (1552-1605; who later founded the University of Santo Tomas) as its first bishop. Benavides later became the third Archbishop of Manila (1602-1605). Except for coastal Palanan, the missionaries assigned in the valley were the Dominicans.

### **Early Missions**

On May 24, 1598, Pilitan was officially accepted as an ecclesiastical mission under the patronage of Saint Paul the Apostle. Upon the invitation of Captain Alonso de Carvajal (*encomendero* of Pilitan), Fray Angel de Soria (worked in Pilitan from 1598-1600) led the first mission band together with Fray Juan de Anaya (worked in Pilitan from 1598-1600; 1608-1609) and Brother Domingo de San Blas that penetrated the Irraya. He reached a Yogad and Gaddang settlement called *Pilitan* (now a barangay of Tumauni town and about "five-days distant from Lal-loc" near the convergence of the Siffu River with the Cagayan River near the present Barangay Santa Isabel). He established the first mission naming it *San Pablo Apostol de Pilitan*. Other missionaries who labored in the establishment of Pilitan were: Fray Francisco Minaio (worked in Pilitan from 1600-1608) and Fray Luis Flores (1563-1622, now Blessed Flores - martyred in Japan; worked in Pilitan from 1606-1608 & 1610-1612). An outstanding Gaddang chief of Pilitan by the name of Guiab collaborated in the founding of the mission. Frays Minaio and Flores also went to evangelize the neighboring areas of Pilitan particularly the great and spacious plains of Zimbuey, now known as Mallig plains (Mallig and Roxas towns). In 1607, the provincial chapter of the Holy Rosary Province (Dominicans) ordered Frays Luis Flores and Francisco Minaio to the Irraya speaking Pilitan and to exert all efforts that the natives must learn to speak Ibanag and to minister to them in the said language. The following year, the *encomendero* Luis Enriquez was assassinated by the Gaddangs of Pilitan because he had treated the Irrayas with so much severity. The natives thrust him through with a lance and out of his shin-bones they made steps to go up the house of their chief.

Also in 1598, Nalabangan (Nalavangan in other manuscripts) was recognized as a mission by the Dominican province under the advocacy of Saint Ildefonso. The team of Fray Angel de Soria reached Nalabangan and started the mission of *San Ildefonso de Nalabangan*. Nalabangan was about a day and a half walk northwest from Pilitan, now under the territorial jurisdiction of Quezon town. Fray Julian Malumbres observed that Spanish "*encomenderos* must have been there up to 1594". It was recorded that they built a Church which they named with a native name in favor with the choice of the natives themselves. This Church suffered the same fate as its predecessors because it was impossible to have a permanent parish priest. Blessed Luis Flores, martyr of Japan, also worked in Nalabangan.

In 1604, *Nuestra Señora dela Asuncion de Talama* was founded by the Dominicans. It was a settlement between the town centers of Tumauni and Ilagan now barangay Bangag. It was believed that after Talama disintegrated and was later founded as Abbuatan in 1608. The name *Abbuatan* (or *Abuatan*) could have come from the word *affud* which means *the trunks that remain after the trees have been cut or burned* or from the word *abbug* which means *to tear up a plant by its roots* referring to the overflow of the Cagayan River during typhoons uprooting trees and carrying them elsewhere. The historian, Fray Diego Aduarte, stated that Abbuatan was "the richest

and the most prosperous Indians in all that region". On April 6, 1617, *Nuestra Señora dela Asuncion de Abbuatan* was officially accepted as an ecclesiastical mission by the Dominicans under the patronage of the Our Lady of the Assumption. It was said that it was formerly the site of *Nuestra Señora dela Asuncion de Talama*. Fray Tomas Ellilar was the first vicar with Fray Domingo Laborda then Fray Pedro Martin Martinez as his helpers. In 1621, Fray Carlos Clemente Gant accompanied by Fray Lucas Alonso del Espiritu Santo (1594-1633; one of the Sixteen Martyrs of Japan and canonized a saint in 1987) headed the mission in Abbuatan until 1623.

Also in 1608, Batavag, the present-day Barangay Lullutan in Ilagan, founded by the Dominican missionary Luis Flores who "gathered together seven little hamlets, making one very peaceful one". During the rebellion in 1621, Batavag regime ended. On May 13, 1612, *San Gabriel de Batavag* (Batauag in other manuscripts) was officially accepted as a mission under the patronage of Saint Gabriel the Archangel through the efforts of Fray Luis Flores and his companion Fray Juan de Santa Ana. On May 28, 1615, the dwellers of Batavag, seduced by their *aniteras* or native priestess, flee to the mountains on the Feast of the Asencion of the Lord. This was a great disgrace but later, it was tolerated in consideration for it being a small town. The rebellion was due to the political and economic oppressions of the Spaniards.

On April 21, 1619, *San Miguel Arcangel de Bolo* (formerly Barangay Naguillian-Baculod and now Barangays Naguillian Norte and Naguillian Sur) was made an ecclesiastical mission by the Dominicans under the patronage of Saint Michael the Archangel. Fray Pedro de Santo Tomas was the *cura parroco* together with Frays Diego Beneto and Francisco de Santo Domingo as helpers and Don Hernandez de Paz as *encomendero*. The name *Bolo* probably was derived from the word *bulu* which referred to a kind of reed or cane. After the rebellion of 1621, Bolo town became extinct.

### **Irraya Revolt**

On November 6, 1621, the residents of Abbuatan erected on a Friday a cross in the churchyard with much uproar and rejoicings by the natives. This place was considered the best of all Irrayas. After two days, the Irrayas in Abbuatan led by the convent bred, twenty-three year-old, Felipe Cuntapay (Felix Cuntabay in other manuscripts and the acknowledged "governor of Abbuatan") and his brother Gabriel Dayag, rose in arms because they were oppressed by vicious Spanish officials. The Irraya villages which rallied to their cause were: Abbuatan, Batavag, Bolo and Pilitan. Fray Alonso Hernandez tried to convince the insurgents but failed. Instead, the rebels requested the good priest to leave the place. After the departure of the missionaries, the Irrayas began their uprising killing the *encomenderos* and Spanish officials and burned their houses. After the bloody killing and looting, the rebels went up the Basili (Balisi in other manuscripts) River and built a fortification on a hill. Bernardo Lumaban and his wife Agustina Pamma saved a mutilated image of the Blessed Virgin in a muddy place after the bloody rebellion and looting. For their actions, the insurrects seized and detained them in prison.

### **Maquila and Cabagan**

In 1622, despite his old age, Dominican Fray Pedro de Santo Tomas, who was in the mountains of what is now Apayao province, returned to the scene of insurrection particularly in the present Barangay Balasig in Cabagan town and successfully convinced the rebels to lay down their arms. He forged an agreement with the rebels under the leadership of Don Gabriel Dayag and was able to bring down from the mountains three hundred households who had originally lived in the villages of Pilitan and Bolo and settled them in Maquila at the junction of the Cagayan and Pinacanauan Rivers of Tuguegarao. The name *Maquila* was derived from the Ibanag word *quilat* which means *clear*, referring to the clear water of the Pinacanauan River. *Pinacanauan*,

on the other hand, was derived from the Ibanag word *nawag* which also means *clear*. On June 1623, the provincial chapter of the Dominican Order accepted *San Pablo Apostol de Maquila* as an ecclesiastical mission under the patronage of Saint Paul the Apostle. In 1624, the Church of Maquila was constructed. Its lofty bell tower of six layers including the circular apex made of adobe was the tallest in Cagayan Valley.

On June 29, 1628, the beloved Dominican missionary who conducted repeated expeditions to the mountains for over twenty years, Fray Pedro de Santo Tomas, died in Maquila on his birthday – the Feast of Saint Peter the Apostle. In 1631, a locust infestation ravaged the entire Cagayan province including what is now Isabela province.

On November 30, 1646, due to the proximity to Tuguegarao, Maquila was relocated upstream, southwards at the mouth of the Cagayan and Pinacanauan Rivers of Cabagan (now the *poblacion* of San Pablo town) on the Feast of Saint Andrew. Maquila was called as the new *pueblo* of Cabagan. The name *Cabagan* probably came from the native word *bag* or *bajaque* which referred to the stores selling g-strings. Another version stated that the name came from the word *cabbagang* which means *pilgrim* or *stranger* because the settlement was in constant contact with the other tribes in the region. On May 15, 1647, the Dominican Order in Manila recorded *San Pablo Apostol de Cabagan* as an ecclesiastical mission under the patronage of Saint Paul the Apostle.

In 1703, the settlement of *Santa Maria de Luzon* was made into a *pueblo* and separated from Cabagan (now San Pablo town) with Don Martin Masigan as *gobernadorcillo*. The name of the new *pueblo* was adapted from the first name of Doña Maria, the first born of Don Pablo Marasigan (a Spaniard) and Doña Masigad. On December 4, 1879, by virtue of a royal order, the old *pueblo* of Santa Maria was officially separated from Cabagan with Dominican Fray Exequiel Pinilla as *cura parroco*. The separation of this town was due to the influence of the Masigan family.

In 1709, a great fire demolished the Cabagan Church which was made of stones and bricks with three naves and a big convent. In 1718, a rebellion in Cabagan was crushed by Don Pablo Orduna and many natives of Cabagan and Tuguegarao fled to the mountains for security. In 1738, the military fort of Cabagan, a triangular two-bulwarked stone fortress, was destroyed (also by earthquakes) and transferred to Cabcungan (now Claveria town in Cagayan province) for the reason that the fort was no longer needed.

On March, 1758, Dominican missionary of Cabagan, Fray Jose Marin, reported of a cholera epidemic which broke out killing 500 in Cabagan and 800 in Tuguegarao. He also informed them of the construction of a wine and sugar factory that was very beneficial to the townfolks.

In 1761, a growing settlement across the Pinacanauan river was formally separated from the mother-town of Cabagan (now San Pablo town) by virtue of a royal decree and was also referred to with the same name. It was only in 1861 when a royal decree was issued separating the new village of Cabagan (now Cabagan town) from the mother-town of Cabagan (now San Pablo). On January 25, 1877, the old town of Cabagan (now San Pablo) was transferred by Dominican Fray Pedro Ricart to a new site (the present territory of Cabagan town) because of unhealthiness of the old site and seemed that progress was bypassing the town in favor of the villages of the south. The new site was only about three kilometers away from the old and was situated between the present barangays of Ugad and Luquilu.

In 1888, the Spaniards resurrected the abandoned site of Cabagan (now San Pablo) into a new town and called it “Cabagan Viejo” with Fray Segundo Rodriguez as cura parroco. He renovated partly the church and convent and gave for the patroness of the town the Virgin of the Rosary. Later, the patron was changed to Saint Paul the Apostle.

The other Cabagan was named "Cabagan Nuevo" to avoid confusion on the two Cabagans. The word "Viejo" means "old" while "Nuevo" means "new" in the Spanish language. When the Americans arrived they re-christened Cabagan Nuevo as simply "Cabagan" and the Cabagan Viejo as "San Pablo". In 1944, by Japanese instigation, the seat of government of San Pablo town was transferred to Barrio Auitan then to Barrio Minanga. In 1959, however, Mayor Calixtro B. Cauan restored the government center to its original site, now the present site.

In 1841, Dominican Fray Antonio Garcia built the *casa real* in Cabagan (now San Pablo town). The *casa* served as an important government center during the Spanish rule in the *alcaldia*. It was a 20x30 meters two-storey building made of stone. On one of its walls was the inscription: *Esta Casa Tribunal se con Cluio en año de 1846, Siendo Governad d' Juan de Guzman*. In 1857, the *casa real* was burned and was later repaired.

In 1861, a royal decree was issued separating Cabagan Nuevo from the mother-town of Cabagan Viejo. Cabagan Nuevo still has the status of a village or barrio. On January 25, 1877, the old town of Cabagan was transferred by Dominican Fray Pedro Ricart to a new site (the present territory of Cabagan town) because of unhealthiness of the old site and seemed that progress was bypassing the town in favor of the villages of the south. The new site was only about three kilometers away from the old and was situated between the present barangays of Ugad and Luquilu.

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### **Other Missions**

In 1673, upon the approval of Dominican Provincial Fray Felipe Pardo (who made his canonical visit to Cagayan Valley), missionaries were sent to La Irraya to explore the minds and feelings of the natives regarding conversion. From Cabagan, Frays Pedro Sanchez and Geronimo Ulloa tried to convince both the *remontado* apostates as well as the non-baptized (pagans) of central Isabela to live as Christians in the Spanish settlements but was not realized. The settlements of central Isabela were: Ilagan, Itugod, Gamu, Furo and Calanusian. They also reached Carig. The two missionaries achieved nothing because the Christians of Cabagan dissuaded the *remontado* apostates as well as the non-baptized to stay put in the mountains.

On July 28, 1678, Dominican Fray Pedro Jimenez re-established the Irraya mission together with his assistant Fray Andres Gonzales and accompanied by armed escorts of five Spanish soldiers, five Pampangos and sixteen Indians (Cagayanes). On August 6, 1678, Fray Jimenez reached the bare land called Pituan (Pitauan in other manuscripts) where he celebrated Mass under a wood shed. The priest came from Cabagan and traveled upstream the Cagayan River to reach Pituan up to Carig.

In 1678, Bolo was recreated by the Dominican missionary, Fray Pedro Jimenez and renamed to *Ilagan*. Unlike the old Bolo which was situated in the western side of the Cagayan River, Ilagan was on the eastern side (now the present site). The name *Ilagan* was an inversion of *nagali*, an Ibanag word for *moved* probably referred to the transfer of the town site from the old barrio of Naguilian-Baculod to the present site due to security and economic reasons. The version of Fray Julian Malumbres was that the name was derived from the word *laga*, an Ibanag term for *smallpox*, which broke out

perhaps at the time of the town's founding. On May 4, 1686, *San Fernando de Ilagan* in the vicinity and memory of the old Bolo was accepted as an ecclesiastical mission by the Dominican provincial chapter. In 1777, the very solid belfry of the church of Ilagan (existing up to present) was started by Fray Pedro de San Pedro and finished by Fray Joaquin Sancho in 1783. In 1786, the bell of the church was forged. In 1829, the sacristy of the Roman Catholic Church of Ilagan was built under Fray Luis Garcia. It was finished in 1833. In 1866, a strong typhoon crossed Isabela destroying the ceiling and roofing of the Ilagan Catholic Church. Desiring to make the Church bigger, Fray Pablo Almazan demolished the solid walls of the main Church and convent which unfortunately he was unable to rebuild. In 1892, the cemetery in San Vicente in Ilagan was built by Dominican Fray Isidoro Martinena.

### **Baladdon Revolt**

In 1683, Mengal Baladdon and his men, alarmed at the success of Fray Jimenez in forming Christian villages in the Irraya, wreaked havoc on Cabagan by killing twelve of its Christian inhabitants prompting the natives to flee to the mountains. The settlement in the verge of collapsing was rescued by the *alcalde mayor* of Cagayan killing some accomplices and captured seventy. Their properties were confiscated and were given to the troops.

### **Gamu**

In 1678, Itugod was founded by the Dominican missionary, Fray Pedro Jimenez. Itugod, now Barangay Lenzon (Alenzon in other manuscripts) of Gamu was situated left of the Cagayan River and a little upstream north of the confluence of the Cagayan and Magat Rivers. The Magat was referred to in some Spanish writings as Itugod River. The name *Itugod* could have come from the words *tugu* which means *comb*; *tugub* which means *guide*; or *tucud* which means *to fathom the waters* which referred to the rowers fathoming the waters for the safe travel of their boats in the Cagayan and Magat Rivers. On May 4, 1688, *Nuestra Señora delas Victorias de Itugod* (Ytugud and Itugud in other manuscripts) was founded as a *reduccion* by the Dominicans and Fray Domingo Muta was assigned as parish priest. He succeeded Fray Jimenez who worked in this parish for seven long years. In 1738, Franciscan historian, Fray Francisco de San Antonio gave a short description of the fort of Itugod in one of his correspondence. "At seventeen degrees and two minutes latitude...The Fort of Santiago de Itugod, in the province of Cagayan, is located north, northeast one degree east of Manila... The fort, made of bamboo poles, is in the shape of a square nineteen fathoms on a side. At the center and at the periphery are located the house of the captain, the barracks of the soldiers, the storeroom and the magazine. The fort is supplied with various types of arms, ammunitions and military equipment."

In 1686, *Santa Rosa de Gamu* (Gamu't in other manuscripts), now the *poblacion* of Gamu town, was founded by Dominican Fray Jose Tomas Jimenez in memory of the old Batavag. The name *Gamu* was derived from the word "gamut" which means "root". In 1726, the Santa Rosa de Lima Church of Gamu was constructed. The Church facade was made of layered bricks and stones.

On December 20, 1690, the grand old founder of *pueblos*, Fray Pedro Jimenez died and was buried in Itugod after an illness of high fever. In 1700, his remains were exhumed and interred in the pavement of the Ilagan Catholic Church (now the old Saint Ferdinand Cathedral). In 1696, the Church of Ilagan was constructed under Fray Miguel Matos and was finished in 1700. Also in 1696, a Royal Order was issued increasing the subsidies to the missionaries and ensuring their safety with six military escorts paid by the government.

On February 1740, Furao (Purrao), now a barangay of Gamu town, was re-established by Fray Martin Fernandez and placed the town in a “good site more or less an hour walk from Gamu”. The name *Furao* came from the word “furau” which means “white”. No account can explain why the locality was called white.

On July 2, 1741, Fray Martin Hernandez wrote to his superiors informing them of the good status of Furao and asked permission to put the *pueblo* under the patronage of Saint Martin, his namesake. He also requested for a statue of the saint to be placed on the altar. Furao was also known as *Macañao* because the first inhabitants came from the village of Macañao, now a barangay of Luna town.

On December 5 of the same year, the old town of Itugod, which has declined in importance and population, was abolished by the Spaniards. A little north of the confluence of the Magat and Cagayan Rivers, the new town of Gamu was established by Fray Martin Hernandez with inhabitants coming from the abolished towns of Batavag and Itugod under the patronage of Saint Rose of Lima. The two *pueblos* were abolished because of their small population, insufficient tributes to administer the two towns and only with a few hands to work in the needed infrastructures.

The following year, Fray Martin Hernandez together with Captain Juan Cauilan (a native of Ilagan and *gobernadorcillo* of Gamu) and his troops reached the villages of Palali, Tacoban and Nabunayan and brought down many Christian apostates including some pagans to the town of Furo.

In 1779, the fusion of the missions of Gamu and Furo was approved permanently. Gamu was the seat of the mission and Furo became one of its barrio.

### **Visita of Palanan**

Palanan, situated in the mid-easternmost coastal side of Isabela, became a *visita* or temporary shelter of Casiguran (now a town of Aurora province) in 1588 with 700 persons and 250 tributes. Palanan, home of the Negritos, was originally a part of the *alcaldía* of La Laguna. On July 22, 1609, the *visita* of Palanan was approved as a *pueblo* by Franciscan Fray Blas Palomino on the Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene. In 1625, Palanan was officially accepted as an ecclesiastical mission and in 1658, was administered by the Augustinian Recollects. In 1703, Palanan was returned under the administration of the Franciscan fathers and was transferred to Nueva Ecija when it became a province in 1705. In 1839, it came under the jurisdiction of Nueva Vizcaya and in 1856 it became a part of Isabela province. The name *Palanan* originated from the inverted Aeta word “nanatap” which means “catch”. Bishop Chanley wrote in his book, *The Erlinda*, that the name was either derived from the Tagal word “palanan” which means “preparation” or from the Ibanag word “palanakko” meaning “I fear that ...”, denoting a feeling of apprehension.

### **Missions of Tumauni and Lapogan**

In 1704, the mission of *San Matias de Tumauni* was established by the vicar of Cabagan, Fray Francisco Nuñez, to christianize the big number of Irraya and Gaddang pagans and apostates living in the locality and to have another town between Cabagan and Ilagan which was about fifty kilometers apart and to serve as a resting place and source of provisions. It was located on a plain near the confluence of the Cagayan and Pinacanauan Rivers of Tumauni. Two popular leaders of the settlement were Carrabacan (baptized on May 3, 1707 and christened with the name Matias) who led in 1707 and Quinagoran who led in 1739. The name *Tumauni* was derived from the word “mauni” referring to the big trees which abounded the town center. When the Spaniards asked a native for the name of the trees; “Come se llama el grande lenia? Sabes tu”. The native did not understand the foreign language but picked up the last word he

heard and answered back; “Tu-mauini”. On May 10, 1751, Tumauni was established as a civil town with the seat of government in Talana. The first elections of April 11, 1752 seated Salvador Dangui as *gobernadorcillo*. The town was under the care of Ilagan vicar Fray Luis Martinez. The *poblacion* was later transferred to Calamagui then to Maggayu. On August 17, 1752, the town center of Tumauni was transferred to its present site from Maggayu with the boundaries fixed at Balasig in the north and Lapogan in the south. The following year, Tumauni was accepted as an ecclesiastical mission with Fray Blas Barbero as the first vicar. The Church of Tumauni was constructed through the efforts of Fray Domingo Forto (a son of a Spanish engineer) and a certain Castillejos (a master carpenter from Lal-lo *pueblo*). When Fray Forto was transferred to Aparri in 1783, Frays Alejandro Sarralde, Manuel Blanco, Jose Brugues, Marcelino Cascos and Romualdo Aguado continued the improvements until it was finished in 1805. It was an ultra-baroque church, unique for its extensive use of baked clay both for wall finishing and ornamentation. Clay bricks came to life in concentric circles on the façade, spiral curves on the finial serpentine relief and many finely molded details – flowers, foliage, surfaces, cherubs and saints. Its architecture bore Chinese ancestry. This church of stone featured a unique twenty-five meter cylindrical bell tower, the only one of its kind in the Philippines. In 1783, the unique round belfry of the stone Church of Tumauni was constructed by Fray Domingo Forto. The tower was finished in 1805.

In 1739, the mission of *San Juan de Lapogan* was founded by the Dominican missionaries under the patronage of Saint John the Baptist. It was situated some thirteen kilometers south of Tumauni heading for Ilagan town site contiguous to Barangay San Juan of Ilagan. The villages included in the mission were: Palasili, Guinabbual, Banafa, Abugan, Caballangan and Amugan. Frays Francisco Borja, Jose Alpenez and Domingo Forto worked hard to bring down the pagans and apostates to Lapogan. In 1753, Lapogan was made a dependent of the newly created town of Tumauni. The name *Lapogan* could have come from the word *pog* or *bamboo* which referred to the abundance of bamboos in the locality between Lapogan and Ilagan.

In 1846, Dominican Fray Tomas Alonso erected three bridges in the road that led to Tuguegarao. He also built the road to Tumauni including the three bridges of stone and mortar. In 1880, Tumauni town became the temporary capital of Isabela.

### **Missions in Llanuras del Diffun**

In 1702, a mission led by the Dominican Frays Jose Rezabal, Baltazar Andueza, Juan Pinta and Andres Gonzales reached Carig in an attempt to colonize *Llanuras del Diffun*. The plains of Diffun, now known as central-southern Isabela, comprised all settlements south of Irraya: Callering (now Reina Mercedes), Cauayan, Angadanan (now Alicia), Camarag (near Echague), Lappau, Carig (now Santiago) and San Luis (now a barangay of Diadi town near the Cordon boundary).

On May 25, 1736, the Dominicans led by Fray Diego dela Torre left Ilagan after he was commissioned by Dominican Provincial Jeronimo Ortiz to go to southern Isabela and get the consensus of the natives for a project to cross the Caraballo to Nueva Ecija. He reached Itugod on May 27, then to Cauayan (old site – Calanusian) and then to Carig. Fulatao (Fulatan in other manuscripts) of Carig, Danao of Gapat (a mountain village halfway between Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya) and later Ansimo of Ambayan (in the mountain of Abungol) helped in the establishment of the route going to the Augustinian mission of Bujay (in Aritao town) passing through the settlements of Dappar, Sicaddanun, Sipatol (now San Luis of Diadi town) to Lumabang (Solano), Bayombong then to Bujay. Fray Dela Torre created the mission of *Santa Cruz de Paniqui* which comprised the Llanuras del Diffun and Paniqui which was from Calanusian (now part of Reina Mercedes town) to Bayombong. The missionaries established a road network starting from Itugod to Calanusian, passing through Cauayan, Angadanan (now Alicia),



Camarag and Carig to Dicapol crossing the Caraballo Heights to Bagabag passing by Bujay and finally crossing the Caraballo del Sur over to Pangasinan. The Dominicans called this activities *entradas*. Disguised as an Igorot, Fray Jose Tomas Marin had the honor of first crossing the mountains from Carig to Aritao. The first *entrada* led to the unsuccessful negotiations with the Mengal Ansimo of Carig.

On July 1737, to renew negotiations with the Yogads and Gaddangs, four missionaries, Frays Manuel Moliner, Jose Tomas Marin, Romualdo Molina and Luis Pedro de Sierra, were sent from Manila. Accompanied by their military escorts, they penetrated Yogad territory along the Magat River from Itugod. On the banks of the Magat in Cauayan, they held meetings with Mengals Ansimo of Ambayon, Fulatao of Carig and Dibulag of Dibulag. The *mengals* refused them passage and imposed severe conditions. This was recorded as the second *entrada*.

In the 1740s, Calanusian, formerly known as Abbag, forerunner of Cauayan and now Reina Mercedes town, was founded by Fray Martin Hernandez and was accepted as an ecclesiastical mission under the patronage of Saint Anthony of Padua. "Abbag" means "on the other side" which referred to its location from Gamu and Furao were located on the other bank of the Magat River. The name "Calanusian" was derived from a tree species of white ebony called "canusi which abounded the locality. With the prefix *ca* and suffix "an, the term means "a grove of white ebony". On April 22, 1741, Cauayan (Calanusian site) was officially accepted as an ecclesiastical mission. Since the first missionaries who came to Cauayan were from Aragon in Spain where Our Lady of the Pillar was most revered, they dedicated Cauayan to the *La Virgen del Pilar*. On June of the same year, the vicar of Ilagan, Fray Antonio del Campo, went to Cauayan escorted with soldiers from the capital of Lal-lo. Together with Fray Luis Pedro de Sierra, they went up the mountains and convinced and brought down to Cauayan pagans as well as Christians apostates who had fled from Tagaran and Anaccuan. In 1768, the town center of Cauayan was transferred from Calanusian to its present site in the left bank of the Cagayan River because of the frequent raids of the Gaddangs and Igorots coming from the Cordilleras and the infested Magat River. The new site was a "pleasant planeand a little elevated, 125'18 longitude and 16'17'30 latitude". In 1825, the Church of Cauayan and convent, which were made of stones, mortars and bricks, was constructed through the efforts of Fray Juan Prieto and was finished in 1830.

On December 1, 1742, Fray Martin Hernandez wrote to his superiors that after encountering much opposition from the native leader Malboran who defied the missionary's incursion to the Gaddangs, the brave native finally promised to settle down to Abbag (forerunner of Cauayan and now Reina Mercedes town) with his followers. Fray Antonio del Campo also wrote of a military expedition where they seized pagans and apostates who escaped in the towns of Gamu and Tarangao to live in Lappau. A document written by Fray Del Ocampo on December 4<sup>th</sup> of the same year stated that besides Fulatao and his people, the tribes of Bolinao, Camaddu, Annahesian and Nabattayan that dwell at the foothills of the Namamparang Mountain came down to settle in Carig.

On January 28, 1743, Fray Martin Hernandez wrote of his forays to the hills of Calabungan in the preceding year and expects that in the coming month a big throng of people would resettle in Furao. On March 16 of the same year, Fray Hernandez informed his superiors that Christians from the town of Tuguegarao literally pestered him for the friar's consent that they live in Gamu and wanted Don Juan Caulian as *gobernadorcillo* of Gamu. On April 2, the same priest penned his superiors asking if it is possible for one hundred tribute-paying individuals from Tuguegarao to come to Gamu since they were no longer needed in their home place. He further commented that though they were paying their tribute in Tuguegarao, they wanted to transfer to enjoy the privilege of being exempted from *polo* or forced labor which was normally granted to newly created *pueblos*. On April 19, he also reported that he had hired a master

sculptor in Manila to make the image of Saint Anthony of Padua for the settlement of Calanusian.

On May 4, 1743, *Santiago Apostol de Carig* (the forerunner of Santiago City) was established by the Dominican Fray Antonio del Campo, the acknowledged founder of towns from Cauayan to Bayombong. Carig was originally located inside the mountainous area between the present Isabelala and Nueva Vizcaya specifically at the foothill of Mount Dalayag near the Carig Creek, a tributary of the Diadi River. The townsite of Carig was later transferred about fifteen kilometers to the plains of Diffun in Patul (the present location) at the confluence of the Carig, Ilut and Malapat Rivers. The joining together of the rivers became known as Calao River. "Calao" or "union of water" referred to the waters from Diadi, Ilug, Malapat, Dubinan and Baligatan while Patul was derived from the name of a brave Gaddang chief by the name of Patul. Carig was the home of the Gaddangs with Fulatao as one of the first leaders who in turn was a vassal to Danao. The name "Carig" means "a straight high tree" which referred to a tree species which abounded the locality. On May 4, 1746, Carig was formally accepted as an ecclesiastical mission under the patronage of Saint James the Apostle. In 1765, Carig was elevated into a vicarate with Fray Gregorio Marinas as the first vicar. In 1772, the Fort of Afanas (now Aritao town in Nueva Vizcaya) was moved to Carig. The Spanish military fort, under the patronage of the Infant Jesus of Prague (Santo Niño), served to blunt the counter-attacks of the Igorots from Diffun, Namamparan and Mayoyao. Fray Manuel Mora described in February 8, 1805 the fort consisting of a sergeant, two cabos and thirty-nine soldiers. In 1804, in Carig, an irrigation system for the planting of rice was introduced. Carig planted an abundance of rice. On May 1858, a royal decree was promulgated officially creating the *pueblo* of Santiago de Carig. In 1860, the stone and mortar convent of the Church of Carig was constructed. It was 35x10 meters wide and was finished during the watch of Fray Bonifacio Corujedo. In 1870, Fray Santiago Jutgla added a building of wood 12x8 meters wide. In 1890, the Church of Santiago, which was made of light materials since 1743, was constructed with mortar and stones by Fray Manuel Candela. The Church was almost finished when Fray Candela was imprisoned during the Philippine Revolution of 1898. The Church size was 67x17 meters in the exterior and 62x14 meters in the interior with a transept and two sacristies on each side.

Also in 1743, *Santa Barbara de Lappau*, located near the Magat River near the present barrio of Oscariz in Ramon town, was accepted as an ecclesiastical mission under the patronage of Saint Barbara. "Lappau" is an Ibanag word which means "flower". On August 1, 1742, the Roman Catholic Church of Lappau was finished. In 1757, Lappau ceased to be a vicarage. The town was abandoned because of the frequent attacks by the Igorots. In 1765, the inhabitants of Lappau were transferred to Sinabbaran which was under the patronage of Saint Joachim. In 1771, the inhabitants of Lappau, who were transferred in Sinabbaran, were ultimately relocated in Camarag.

In 1745, Angadanan was founded by the Dominican missionaries. The original town site was not located in present-day Isabelala but in Nueva Vizcaya province to the right of the Magat River between Lumabang (now Solano town) and Bagabag at the Angaranan (Angadanan) Creek to the east of Bayombong at the slopes of Mount Palali. The missionaries built a *pueblo* by the Angaranan Creek because of its strategic importance in their war against the Ilongots of the boundary of Caraballo and Sierra Madre. On April 27, 1765, Angadanan was accepted as an ecclesiastical mission by the Dominicans under the patronage of Our Lady of Atocha. On October 1776, Angadanan was relocated from its original site in Nueva Vizcaya to a place called Dudungan (now the town center of Alicia) near the Ganano (Gananoc and Ganantoc in old manuscripts) River. According to Dominican Fray Julian Malumbres, the name *Dudungan* must have come from the words "dung", "dungan" or "durungan" since it must have been the "landing place of the river Ganano". The few inhabitants of the old site were the reason for the transfer. On the same year, the red brick Roman Catholic Church of Angadanan

(now Alicia Church) was constructed. In 1849, the Church of Angadanan (now Alicia) was inaugurated. The Our Lady of Atocha Church was built by the Dominican Fray Tomas Calderon assisted by Fray Francisco Gainza, the vicar of Carig. The convent was also built by Fray Calderon. Through the legacy of Don Juan Vigand and a donation of five hundred pesos from the provincial Fray Joaquin Guixa, Fray Manuel Alvarez improved the Church and convent putting among other things galvanized iron sheet to both the roof of the convent and Church. In 1878, the Roman Catholic bell of the Our Lady of Atocha of Angadanan (now in Alicia town) was forged. In 1896, Angadanan, for the second time, transferred the town center to Camucauan (now the present *poblacion*) because of its proximity from the Cagayan River which was then the chief means of transportation. The name *Camucauan* was later changed to *Tagle* in honor of *gobernadorcillo* Jose Tagle. The new town was called as *Angadanan Nuevo* to distinguish it from the old site which was *Angadanan Viejo*.

### **Military Campaigns of Cauilian**

On November 1745, Dominican Fray Andres Mateo and *gobernadorcillo* Don Juan Cauilian of Gamu together with one hundred fifty Cagayan natives penetrated the mountains in front of the mission of Furaon reaching the sitio of Bagguan. After a two day journey, they conquered the apostates Christians and pagans who had already formed a town in the sitio of Malinta.

On April 1754, Don Juan Cauilian subdued the pagan Gaddangs of Siffu (Mallig plains) who continued to harass and did damage to Christian communities in the towns of Cauayan, Carig and Lappau.

On March 1755, Don Juan Cauilian conducted another attack to the Gaddangs of Siffu. Many apostates had been reduced and brought down to the various towns of Santa Cruz de Paniqui and reconciled themselves with the Church.

In a letter to the Spanish king dated April 12, 1755, the Dominican provincial, Fray Jose Herrera explicitly exposed that the Order of Preachers (Dominican missionaries) financed military expeditions against the natives of the Llanuras del Diffun (Plains of Diffun – Santiago...) for four years in a row from 1752 to 1755).

### **Other Missions - Camarag & Catalangan**

In 1752, Camarag, forerunner of Echague town (now a barangay of San Isidro town), was founded as a *pueblo* by the Dominican missionaries. The acknowledged native founder of the settlement of Camarag was the Yogad leader Mengal Alingog (Alingot in Spanish manuscripts). The Yogads and Gaddangs from the hinterlands of Diffun and Amanga were the first settlers in the Spanish administered *pueblo* of Camarag which was first situated along the Cagayan River approximately the site of the present *poblacion* of Echague. The name "Camarag" was derived from the name of a species of big trees that grew profusely in the locality. On May 12, 1753, Camarag was recognized as an ecclesiastical mission by the Dominicans under the patronage of Saint Joseph. In 1759, Camarag was made a vicarage. In 1776, the town center of Camarag was transferred to the banks of the Ganano River less than ten kilometers away from the banks of the Cagayan River. But according to Fray Ocio, the actual relocation took place in 1785 because of the very determined resistance of the Yogad *mengals* and their people. After the transfer, *Karulay* (*Katuray* in other manuscripts) became the dominant name of the new settlement. In 1785, the commander of the military fort of Carig with the consent of the Dominican missionaries forcibly moved the town site of Camarag (from the present *poblacion* of Echague town in Karulay) to the banks of the Ganano River in the present Barangay Camarag in San Isidro town and built a Church made of stone and mortar. On May 4, 1863, Camarag was transferred for the third time from the Ganano site back to the old site along the banks of the Cagayan River.

Camarag was renamed to *Echague* to honor the incumbent Governor-General (1862-1865) during the transfer, Don Rafael de Echagüe y Méndez de Vigo (or Bermingham and Gipuzkoa; 1815-1887). Echague was created into a new *pueblo* upon the petition of the native Yogad *gobernadorcillo* Antonio Mangadap. The *rancherías* of the new *pueblo* included: Camarag, Sinabbaran, Karulay, Annafunan, Kapitan (now Maligaya), Garit and Payac. In 1886, Dominican Fray Buenaventura Campa, vicar of Echague, built a church of wood with galvanized roofing. He then built a kiln for the making of lime and bricks. He proceeded to make the flooring and the walls of the convent which measures 40x18 meters. He prepared doors, gathered shells, balconies of iron, as well as multitude of good-quality wood. A church of stone; however, was never finished. The two bells of the Church were forged in 1890 and were donated by Don Eufracio Gaffud (who later became *presidente municipal* 1906-1907) and dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary and Don Fulgencio Danga, dedicated to Saint Joseph.

In 1755, the mission of Catalangan, now the *poblacion* of San Mariano town and the villages along the banks of the Pinacanauan, Disabungan, Disulap and Catalangan Rivers in the Sierra Madre, was founded by the Dominican missionaries. The name "Catalangan" was derived from the native word "talang" which mean "spine" referring to the abundance of pine trees in the area. The Negritos were the first inhabitants of Catalangan followed by the Irrayas who fled the lowlands. On April 30, 1757, Catalangan was officially accepted as an ecclesiastical mission with Dominican Fray Blas Barbera as the first vicar. However, due to lack of missionaries and the hard terrain of the area, the mission disintegrated. In 1896, the Spanish government ordered the re-opening of the Catalangan mission which was led by Fray Juan Sazaballa.

The Dominican Provincial Fray Jose Herrera wrote to the king of Spain on December 1752, informing him that Carig was composed of 107 catechumens and 55 Christians while Lappau consisted of 300 Christians and 144 catechumens. In 1756, Franciscan Fray Manuel Formoselle crossed the Sierra Madre mountain range from Ilagan to Palanan. This was recorded in the Dominican chronicles as the first to cross the thick virgin forest. On June 18, 1758, a royal *cedula* was issued exempting for all time the Catholic residents of Nueva Segovia which included the present province of Isabela from payment of the tribute.

### **Ilagan Revolt**

On February 2, 1763, Dabo and Juan Marayac (Marayag in other manuscripts) revolted in Ilagan against the collection of tribute and other unbearable abuses committed by the *principalia* amidst calls from the *cura parroco*, Dominican Fray Vicente de Castro, to call off the rebellion. The rebels seized the *gobernadorcillo* and the *cabezas*, dragged them to the town tribunal and whipped them in the way they whip the commoners. The insurrection spread from Cabagan to Tuguegarao but did not last long. The Captain General, Don Ignacio de Arza y Urrutia and his loyal Filipino troops, came and quelled it. The leaders were executed.

### **Tobacco Monopoly**

On December 13, 1781, Tobacco Monopoly was implemented by Governor-General (1778-1787) José Basco y Vargas but Cagayan Valley was prohibited to plant tobacco from 1785 to 1797 which brought adversity to the natives because the principal profitable product of the valley was tobacco. In 1783, different ethnic groups took refuge in Palanan town in their attempt to escape the Tobacco Monopoly. The migration adopted a mixed Palanan dialect which consisted of a vocabulary of Tagalog, Ibanag, Ilocano and Visayan terms.

On May 1797, a decree partially lifted the ban on tobacco cultivation with only the town of Ilagan authorized to plant tobacco for the monopoly. Other decrees followed that

gradually allowed the other towns of the valley to plant tobacco. The extent of the cultivation of tobacco increased in the next thirty years until the region became the largest single producer of high grade tobacco in the country.

On October 25, 1879, a decree of Governor General (1877-1880) Domingo Moriones y Murillo Zabaleta y Sanz, marqués de Oroquieta (1823-1881) gave lands to the religious orders for the purpose of fomenting the production of tobacco. The Augustinians were given 14,000 hectares of land in the present towns of Reina Mercedes, Luna and Cauayan. The Augustinian Recollects had 48,000 hectares of land east and southeast of Ilagan town proper in the present haciendas of San Antonio and San Mariano. The Franciscans were given 5,000 hectares of land along the Pinacanauan River of Ilagan.

On June 25, 1880, the tobacco monopoly was abolished all over the islands including that of Isabela. Because of free enterprise, the Chinese came in full force in Cagayan Valley. On January 15, 1881, Governor-General Fernando Primo de Rivera y Sobremonte issued a decree allowing Ilocanos to migrate to Cagayan Valley. Drove of Ilocanos came to Isabela and started opening tobacco fields near the Cagayan River particularly in the locality of Echague.

On January 26, 1881, the *Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas* or *Tabacalera* was established to continue the export of leaf tobacco and take over the cigar factories owned by the Spanish government. The *tabacalera* bought from the government all the tobacco factories in Manila, which willed into a single factory called *La Flor de Isabela* which was one of the largest of its kind in the world. The three tobacco haciendas were: Hacienda San Antonio in Ilagan which was the largest and named in memory of Don Antonio Lopez y Lopez, 1<sup>st</sup> Marques de Comillas (1817-1883); Hacienda Santa Isabel also in Ilagan which was named in memory of a daughter of Don Lope Gisbert; and Hacienda San Luis in Cauayan. The *casa* in San Antonio, still standing up to the present, served as the residence and office of the Spanish officials.

### **Yogad Revolt**

On March 30, 1785, Mengal Lagutao of Angadanan and wife Magaya together with Mengal Baladdon (Yogad priest and medicine man), the Christian Juan Gumpin, Mengal Manganusu and Mengal Baguatan (Bagguadon in other manuscripts) all three of Camarag led a rebellion against the Spanish authorities because of the forcible relocation of Camarag, the tribute and the ban in cultivating tobacco. Lagutao also convinced his brother Onofre Liban, *gobnadorcillo* of Angadanan who was sick of smallpox, to join his cause. The rebellion spread to the whole district of Paniqui with eight hundred Yogads armed with bows and arrows and *campilans* from Camarag, Carig and Angadanan joined Lagutao's rebellion which started in Karulay, now a barangay of Echague town.

On April 5 of the same year, native commandant Mateo Cabal leads five hundred soldiers from Gamu, Furao, Calanusian, Cauayan, Carig, Bagabag, Lumabang (now Solano) and Bayombong and engaged Lagutao's forces at Rancho Payac, now a barangay of Jones town. Lagutao was killed together with his brother and nephew and eleven others in this encounter while Baladdon and others escaped towards the Sierra Madre. Eighty were captured and on the following day another battle took place where over a hundred rebels were killed.

### **Reign of Terror**

From 1831 to 1847, the Igorots (of the present Ifugao province), especially the Mayoyaos and Silipans, launched a counter-attack which were so ferocious, continuous and covering a wide area. These Igorot tribes who inhabited the steep mountains of Quiangan (now spelled Kiangan), Silipan, Mayoyao and Bungian (now Aguinaldo)

assassinated travelers and attacked towns from the Caraballo mountains to Calanusian (formerly the *poblacion* of Cauayan, now Reina Mercedes town) and impede the people from cultivating their fields and pasturing their work animals in the meadows. The Igorots beheaded 6 Ibanags from Gamu, 20 from Ilagan and 9 in Furo. Furthermore, they beheaded 68 Yogads in Carig, 26 in Camarag, 21 in Angadanan, 18 in Cauayan and 7 in Calanusian. Moreover, the same tribe beheaded 64 Gaddangs in Bagabag, 12 in Lumabang (now Solano) and 29 in Bayombong.

On August 9, 1846, Dominican Fray Juan Rubio was ambushed and decapitated by the Igorots of Mayoyao. Fray Rubio was on his way to his new post in Camarag along the Carig-Camarag road by the Caliguian (now Caligdigan) River.

In the same year, Governor-General Narciso Clavería y Zaldúa (1844-1849), upon receipt of the petitions of the missionaries and the *principalias* of Paniqui (Carig, Bagabag, Solano and Bayombong), visited the whole of Cagayan Valley and assessed the Igorot problem. He instructed the construction of the fort of Begona (now Barangay Oscariz in Ramon town) between the present boundary of Ifugao and Isabela in the hill called *Dangaran*. He also assigned “his best aid and perhaps the best soldier that then existed in the whole archipelago”, Don Mariano Oscariz, as military governor of Nueva Vizcaya.

On February 27, 1847, Governor-General Clavería granted the amnesty request of Dominican Fray Remigio Rodriguez de Alamo (known as the “motor and soul of the province”) for the people living in the mountains particularly in Catalangan who would go down to settle in the Christian towns within one month after the receipt of the governor’s order. A good number of families went down to live in the towns of Cauayan and Ilagan.

### **Province of Nueva Vizcaya**

On May 24, 1839, Cagayan *alcaldia* was divided upon the creation of the province of Nueva Vizcaya which comprised all towns from Ilagan to Aritao in Caraballo del Sur including the *visita* of Palanan (then a part of Nueva Ecija province) and Catalangan. Cabagan and Tumauni remained to be part of Cagayan province. Camarag became the capital of the newly created province of Nueva Vizcaya up to 1856. The term *nueva* means *new* while *Vizcaya* refers to the province of *Vizcaya* (spelled *Bizkaia* in the Basque language) in northern Spain. *Bizkaia* means *mountainous*. On April 10, 1841, the division of Cagayan was confirmed by a royal decree.

### **Exiles**

On January 25, 1847, Governor-General Clavería sent twenty Muslim exiles to Camarag who were punished during the military expeditions to Maguindanao, Cotabato, Lanao and Sulu in Mindanao. This was the first recorded settlement of Muslims in Isabela. Another group of exiles came from the expedition of Governor-General (1859-1853) Antonio de Urbiztondo y Eguia.

### **Military Campaigns**

On March 29, Governor Oscariz left the fort of Begona with 107 soldiers, 4 civilian guards, 323 armed civilian. They reached Appacan and destroyed fields of tobacco, *camote* and *gabi*. On April 2, they burned 100 houses and destroyed many fields in Langayan and 30 houses in Ijigu.

On April 5, 1847, many groups of Igorots sued for peace. Governor Oscariz, knowing that the peace pacts were always pretentions, asked for the presence of the *principalias* together with all their women and children. After the two-thirty in the afternoon deadline, no women and children came so he started the destruction and burned fields and

houses. The following day, Chief Matingin with his wife, son and grandson, Chiefs Menguet and Bilango and other *principalias* surrendered and requested for peace. Governor Oscariz gave the conditions of surrender and was accepted by the Mayoyaos the following day. The killing of settlers and Christians of Isabela ended with the military campaigns with peace prevailing in the place.

On July 13, 1848, Governor Oscariz marched to the mountains of Disabungan (the present San Mariano town) from Ilagan and reached the three villages of Dicamay (of Negrito inhabitants), Disabungan or Capitan (inhabited by Christians who fled the lowland) and Sapat (of pagan inhabitants) after five days. He also reached a village called Ambabuk at the extreme end of the Catalangan mission.

On July 19 of the same year, a two day celebration was conducted in Camarag to honor Don Mariano Oscariz, military governor of Nueva Vizcaya and conqueror of the Igorots. It was attended by the six missionaries of Nueva Vizcaya; *gobernaldillos* of Ilagan (Jose de San Vicente), Gamu (Juan Caulian), Furaon (Domingo Enrp), Calanusian (Juan Evangelista), Cauayan (Jorje Layug), Camarag (Marcos Layugan) and Carig (Diego Palang); employees of the province; natives from the other parts of the province; and Mayoyao, Kiangan, Negrito, Ilongot, Silipan and Gaddang natives. A long hymn in praise of Governor Oscariz was composed for the occasion by Fray Francisco Gainza, the refrain of which runs as follows: “A song we intone of glory, to our savior, a hero of fame, to tell through the years his story and recall his beloved name.”

On February 1868, Isabela governor, Don Gonzales Montero joined Bontoc Commandant Juan Alvarez and Lepanto Commandant Montero in a huge military expedition. They spent forty days subjugating Kiangan, Hapao, Mayaoyao, Bunhian, Ahin, Silipan and Banaue, all settlements in the highlands of the Cordilleras and now part of Ifugao province

### **Alamo**

On January 1849, Alamo, a town of Gaddangs, was formed with eighty houses constructed in an ordinary manner in a plain by the Macañao River five and a half kilometers from the present Reina Mercedes town and about the same distance northwest of Cauayan. The settlement of Alamo was named by Governor-General Claveria after its founder Dominican Fray Remigio Rodriguez de Alamo, vicar of Cauayan. The new town was under the patronage of Saint Remigio. The settlement of Alamo was later renamed to *Macañao*, now a barangay of Luna town.

On March 24, 1849, Fray de Alamo arrived in Camarag a hero after successfully convincing the headhunting Mayoyaos to establish a mission in their locality. He left for the mountains on March 5 of the same year. On April 10, 1849, Fray De Alamo died in Cauayan at the age of 33.

### **Province of Isabela**

On May 1, 1856, in order to facilitate the work of the missionaries in the evangelization of the Cagayan Valley and upon the recommendation of Governor-General (1850-1853) Antonio de Urbiztondo y Eguía, a royal decree was issued during the administration of Governor-General (1854-1856) Manuel Crespo y Cebrián which created the province of Isabela. The new *alcaldia* consisted of the towns of Cabagan, Tumauini, Ilagan, Gamu, Calanusian, Cauayan, Angadanan, Camarag, Carig including Catalangan and Palanan. The new province was named *Isabela de Luzon* in honor of Her Royal Highness Queen Isabella II of Spain. The old town of Ilagan became the capital of the new province.

### **New Towns - Cordon, Oscariz, Reina Mercedes & Naguilian**

In 1878, Cordon (referred to as Ilug by Colonel Guillermo Galvey in 1837 and in other Spanish documents) was founded by Fray Santiago Jutgla, the missionary of Carig, under the patronage of the Holy Infant of Prague. The first inhabitants were the Tagalogs from the barrio called Malapat. Fray Jutgla changed the name *Cordon* to *Estella* in honor of the Marques de Estella, Don Fernando Primo de Rivera y Sobremonte (1831-1921), governor-general of the Philippines (1880-1883&1897-1898). According to the historian Fray Julian Malumbres, the name *Cordon* was derived from the term *pinagcordonan* because in the said place a *cordon* was placed to contain the excesses of the Ifugaos around the year 1830. On July 1, 1939, Cordon was inaugurated as a municipality with Angel Batoon as the first mayor. Congressman Mauro P. Verzosa sponsored House Bill No. 804 which was passed as Commonwealth Act No. 191 separating Cordon from the mother-town of Santiago.

In 1882, Begona was founded as a town by Dominican Fray Buenaventura Campa with San Isidro Labrador as patron saint. Spanish Colonel Guillermo Galvey arrived in this locality from the Cordilleras near a hill called Dangaran in the 1830s and named the area as *Vallecillo* in honor of an official who died in his military journeys. After half a century, a settlement was formed and was named *Begona*. Fray Campa changed the name *Begona* to *Oscariz* to honor the military governor of Nueva Vizcaya, Don Mariano Oscariz, the conqueror of the Igorots. Fray Campa drew the plan of the town with roads 12 meters wide, plaza square of 212 meters and residential lots of 50x50 meters which were planted with coffee, cacao and mango. The first bell of the Church of Oscariz, a gift from the first missionary - Fray Campa, was forged in 1882 and dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. The second bell, a gift of the first inhabitants, was forged in 1894 and dedicated to Saint Isidore Labrador. On September 12, 1896, Oscariz was officially recognized as a town by virtue of a royal order which was seconded by the Dominicans with the appointment of Fray Eugenio Aguirrozabal as its missionary.

On January 20, 1886, the old settlement of Itugod (not to be mistaken from the 1<sup>st</sup> Itugod which is now Lenzon, Gamu) founded by Fray Pedro Jimenez, which was originally named *Abbag*, renamed to *Callering* then to *Calanusian* and finally to *Reina Mercedes* in honor of Her Majesty Queen Mercedes, wife of King Alfonso XII of Spain, was ecclesiastically separated from the mother-town of Cauayan with Dominican Fray Estanislao Pinto as the first vicar and Don Santiago Respicio as the first *gobernadorcillo*.

On November 27, 1896, a royal order was signed creating the settlement of San Roque, formerly known as *Anipa* and later *Tagal*, into a town from the old mother-town of Gamu and was implemented in Manila by a decree dated January 22, 1897 with Don Vicente Ramirez y Mondano as the first *gobernadorcillo* and Fray Jose Maria Menendez as acting parish priest. By consensus, the inhabitants christened the new town as *Naguilian*, an Ilocano and Ibanag term which means *a place that became a town*. Naguilian was the second Batavag for the first Batavag was transferred to this place due to the raids of the pagan Gaddangs.

### **Native Attacks**

In 1883, the Guinabbuales (Gaddangs of Guinabbual in the Cordilleras) of the District of Itaves raided and killed some inhabitants of Hacienda Santa Isabel in Ilagan town including the Cuban tobacco expert under the employ of the *tabacalera* by the name of Rocabrano. A military expedition headed by Spanish commander Villa-Abrille was sent to punish the Guinabbuales. Eleven Gaddangs were brought down and were subsequently divided among various families in Carig.

On February 1, 1896, the pagan Kalingas of Guinabbual in the Cordilleras killed three men from Cabagan Nuevo proper and killed another in *sitio* Addan. On February 20 of



the same year, the same Kalingas killed two more men in Cabagan who were cutting wood.

On July 1, 1898, a group of Ifugaos attacked the town of Oscariz and killed twenty inhabitants and robbed valuables. The Ifugaos went back to the mountains when the residents retaliated and fought in unison. The Ifugaos later went back for a peace pact.

### **Philippine Revolution & the First Republic**

On August 25, 1898, Colonel Daniel Mata Tria Tirona (1864-1939) was assigned by President (1899-1901) Emilio Aguinaldo y Famy (1869-1964), in Cagayan and Isabela. He was subsequently appointed as military governor of Cagayan and Isabela and held the rank of brigadier general.

On September 1, 1898, Isabela Governor Perez left Ilagan at five o'clock in the morning with P11,368.58 and retired his thirty-five *guardia civiles* to Bayombong upon learning that Tuguegarao was captured by the revolutionary forces led by General Tirona on August 31. Governor Perez was captured in Bayombong ending the Spanish domination in the valley. The Claravalls, Paguirigans and Padillas of Ilagan were enlisted in the Tirona Brigade.

Eighteen Dominican missionaries from the parishes of Ilagan, Tumauni, Cabagan Nuevo, Cabagan Viejo, Reina Mercedes, Angadanan, Cauayan, Echague, Carig, Gamu, Santa Maria, Naguilian, Cordon, Catalanganes and Oscariz were imprisoned by the revolutionary forces.

On September of the same year, the Malolos Congress convened in compliance with the decree issued by President Emilio Aguinaldo and announced the appointment of "provincial representatives". Two delegates were elected and one was appointed by President Aguinaldo. Don Raymundo Gaduang Alindada (1855-1928; from Bagabag in Nueva Vizcaya; a music teacher and school master and was honored with a street name in Manila), Don Eustacio del Rosario and Don Abelardo Guzman were the official representatives for Isabela de Luzon. On January 20, 1899, the Malolos Constitution was approved

On October 5 also of the same year, the first local election was held under the Aguinaldo government by virtue of the Proclamation of June 18, 1898. It was noted by Dean Conant Worcester in his book entitled, *Philippine Past and Present*, that there were only a little over twenty electors in the town of Echague and a little more in the other towns of Isabela. Don Dimas Guzman y Masigan of Ilagan was elected *jefe politico* (or governor).

### **Philippine-American War**

On February 4, 1899, the Philippine-American War erupted. On December 3, 1899, the Filipino troops under the command of General Tirona engaged the Americans headed by Captain Joseph Brunch Batchelor, Jr. (d.1902) of the U.S. Army 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry near the boundary of Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya at Fuerte San Luis. With a strength of three hundred seventy men, the Americans out gunned the Filipino troops pushing them as far as Cordon *poblacion* at four o'clock in the afternoon.

On December 5, 1899, the Filipinos tried defending the towns of Angadanan, Echague and Carig but were captured by the Americans before night fell. Colonel Raymundo C. Jeciel (1875-1951; later elected the 7<sup>th</sup> governor of Cavite province 1922-1925) surrendered to Major Henry Tureman Allen (1859-1930) of the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry in Echague.

On December 7 of the same year, the revolutionaries of Naguilian defended the town but were also in vain as the Americans encircled their positions along the trenches. The following day, the U.S. Cavalry reached the capital-town of Ilagan.

On December 11, General Tirona (who was in Aparri, Cagayan) surrendered to Captain Bowman H. McCalla (1844-1910) of the U.S. Navy cruiser *Newark*. Tirona's surrender was with the honors of war. Captain McCalla reviewed the Filipino troops and Tirona reviewed the U.S. naval forces. The Americans presented arms while the Filipinos were stacking theirs; a total of 300 rifles were turned over. Captain McCalla appointed Tirona as the temporary civil governor of the Cagayan Valley pending further orders from Major General Elwell Stephen Otis (1838-1909), 8th Army Corps Commander and military governor of the Philippines (1898-1900).

### **Aguinaldo's Refuge**

On January 8, 1900, President Aguinaldo reached Oscariz town after retreating from Malolos (Bulacan), San Fernando (Pampanga), San Isidro (Nueva Ecija), Tarlac (Tarlac province), Bayambang (Pangasinan), Bauang (La Union), Candon (Ilocos Sur), Cervantes (Lepanto province), Bontoc (Bontoc province) and Ambuayan (Bontoc). The *teniente delbarrio* welcomed the entourage with an abundance of food. During the next ten days, people from all neighboring barrios came to Oscariz to pay respect to the president and brought him eggs, fowls, rice, corn, legumes, bottles of *basi* and even *carabaos*.

On January 18 of the same year, President Aguinaldo dispatched an Ilocano company headed by Captain Idefonso Villareal to Carig as news of the Americans who came from Ilagan was already in Echague. Two Americans who arrived at the telegraph office in Carig were executed by Aguinaldo's men. After which, the general retreated to the foothills west of the town to wait for the arrival of the enemy. Only a week later did the Americans showed up and set fire to the towns of Oscariz and Echague. On February 1, the Aguinaldo party returned to their camp in Oscariz and stayed there for more than a month. The president summoned the Filipino troops in Nueva Vizcaya to join his soldiers.

On February 5, former Lieutenant Manuel Guzman, of the ill-fated Tirona Battalion, reached President Aguinaldo's camp in Oscariz with the news of the surrender of the Cagayan Valley by General Tirona to the American forces. The following day, horse races were held for the entertainment of Aguinaldo's officers and soldiers and was followed by a banquet.

On February 14, at seven o'clock in the morning, large quantities of rice arrived at Aguinaldo's camp in Oscariz from Gamu. The president later sent Lieutenant Trago, with a company of soldiers, to Hacienda Nieto in Gamu and arrested unpatriotic persons in the locality following the complaints of two farmers. A few days later, a letter from a follower in Ilagan reported that the enemies were mobilizing an attack on Aguinaldo's camp. The general decided to continue his journey to the north and reached the localities of Butugui (now part of Paraceles town in Mountain Province), Manoc, Dancalan (in Bontoc province), Libuagan (in Abra province), Magapaso & Magaogao (now part of Pinukpuk town in Kalinga province) and Enrile town in Cagayan province.

On March 24, hand to hand fighting took place between detachments of the G and H Companies of the U.S. 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry and the Filipinos near Ilagan town. On May 29, President Aguinaldo arrived in Barrio Aggub in Cabagan town from Enrile and ordered the attack on the Americans in the town and the neighboring communities. He then started his historic retreat to Palanan via Tierra Virgen (now Barangay Aguinaldo) in Naguilian town.

### **Aguinaldo in Tierra Virgen**

On June 27, in Tierra Virgen, President Aguinaldo urged the *guerillas* in the Philippines to continue resisting the American forces until the general elections in the United States. On July 1, the president's decree on March 10, 1900, regarding the Catholic Church in the Philippines, became effective. The decree provided that the highest authority in the Catholic Church in the Philippines was the Military Vicar General recognized by the President of the Philippine Republic, that only those friars and priests, Filipinos or foreigners, who were recognized by the Military Vicar General will be allowed to exercise ecclesiastical jurisdiction in the Philippines. On July 8, President Aguinaldo issued an order to *guerilla* officers in the field setting aside the days from September 15 to 24 for a general offensive against the Americans. On July 22, the president issued a proclamation declaring all those who attended the peace festivals in Manila were traitors.

On July 26, also of the same year, in Tierra Virgen, President Aguinaldo received a report from Ambrosio Logan (an interpreter from Naguilian town) informing him that the Americans in Echague had received an official correspondence announcing the arrival of the Schurman Commissioners with the title of *cazadores*, for the purpose of locating and conferring with Aguinaldo.

On August 2, the president wrote a letter to General Isidoro Torres y Dayao (1866-1928), politico-military chief of Bulacan, instructing him to adopt effective counter measures against the alluring offers from the Americans for the revolutionists. The following day, he issued a manifesto appealing to his countrymen not to listen to the Filipino collaborators but to fight ceaselessly for their rights until the attainment and recognition of independence. Another manifesto was issued ordering the *guerillas* to free their prisoners and setting forth the provision that the American soldiers who surrendered or became prisoners should receive eighty pesos for each gun (the American authorities paid thirty pesos only) and twenty pesos for those who voluntarily surrender.

On August 8, in view of the American policy of attraction which had induced many *guerillas* to surrender, President Aguinaldo instructed his commanders in the field to "use their utmost endeavors to overcome the efforts of the North American Imperialists to subject our dear country" to slavery. Two days later, the president authorized Apolinario Mabini y Maranan (1864-1903) to negotiate with the Americans and to discuss the conditions for peace, mainly the recognition of Philippine independence. On August 14, President Aguinaldo wrote a letter to General Mariano Trias y Closas (1868-1914), commanding general of southern Luzon, ordering him to issue a circular to the chief in each locality on the necessity of renewing the offensive against the Americans and appointing agents to counteract the propaganda for peace and suppressing gambling. The following day, the president issued a circular to General Trias asking him to re-organize the old Katipunan as it was of great help in the defense of the country and in putting an end to gambling and other vices.

On August 20, President Aguinaldo contacted the *guerilla* leaders of northern Luzon and ordered them to commence *guerilla* operations with authority to attack and surprise the enemy at any time. He appointed Captain Joaquin Velasquez for Nueva Vizcaya, Captain Julian H. del Pilar for Isabela and Major Carlos Qutin Ronquillo y Valdez (1877-1941) for Cagayan. On August 27, President Aguinaldo, upon being informed of the American landing in Aparri in Cagayan, decided to move out of Tierra Virgen and marched to Palanan and crossed the thickly forested Sierra Madre. He left behind Captains Del Pilar and Villareal to harass the enemy. Aguinaldo's party followed the trail called *Angalingan* which passed through the present towns of Benito Soliven (barangays of La Salette, Caposeran, Guili-ngan and Ara) and San Mariano (barangays of old San Mariano & Malabbo). The troops rested in a cave in Barrio Disusuan (also in San Mariano town).

### **Aguinaldo in Palanan**

On September 6, 1900, President Aguinaldo, Doctor Santiago Barcelona, Colonel Simeon Villa and seventeen soldiers arrived in Palanan and were enthusiastically welcomed by a large crowd and a brass band. Aguinaldo, at first, concealed his identity using the alias Lieutenant Esteban with Barcelona as Captain Baltazar and Villa as Sergeant Alvaro. On September 9, President Aguinaldo invited the townpeople to a luncheon meeting at the convent of Palanan and spoke to them of their patriotic duties especially with regards to the Americans. On September 29, the president, his men and the citizens of the town celebrated the second anniversary of the declaration of independence of the Philippines. Dancing and games were conducted until late afternoon.

On November 23, President Aguinaldo received news of fifty American soldiers heading towards their direction. He immediately retreated half of his troops with him on the thickly forested area across the Palanan River while the other half joined the Chief of Police, Olimpo Cortes, and planned for an ambush. When the Americans arrived, they found the place deserted. They burned the town down and left. After a week, Aguinaldo, his men and the locals returned and re-established the town. He ordered the construction of trenches near the convent facing Mount Dinagapilan to serve as a protection to future raids.

On December 8, 1900, Nazario Alhambra arrived from Casiguran (a town in Principe, now part of Aurora province) together with forty Filipino soldiers. A total of P3,302.50 of collected revolutionary contributions from Echague and nearby towns was turned over to President Aguinaldo. The money was used to pay the salary of Aguinaldo's men (one peso each) and the rest as gifts to the people of Palanan. On December 30, President Aguinaldo celebrated the fourth anniversary of the martyrdom of Doctor Jose P. Rizal with Doctor Barcelona reading the biography of the martyred hero at the parish convent.

On January 15, 1901, President Aguinaldo sent his Ilocano messenger Cecilio Segismundo to central Luzon to ask for re-enforcements from the forces of Generals Baldomero Aguinaldo (1869-1915), Teodoro Sandiko and Colonel Lazaro Makapagal. Unfortunately, on February 8, Segismundo together with six other tired and famished soldiers surrendered to the group of Kansas volunteer led by First Lieutenant James D. Taylor, Jr., commander of Company C, 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of U.S. Volunteers in Pantabangan (Nueva Ecija province) after the town mayor, Francisco Villajuan, had convinced the worn-out men to give up. The documents, dated January 13 and 14, were turned over to Brigadier General Frederick N. Funston (1865-1917) who was the district commander of the American forces in San Isidro, Nueva Ecija. From this documents, the Americans as per orders of General Arthur MacArthur, Jr. (1845-1912) laid down the plan for the capture of Aguinaldo.

On January 17, President Aguinaldo issued a manifesto protesting American cruelties in the Philippine-American War. On January 22, a celebration was made honoring the *principalias* of the town and on the following day the presidential guards led the dancing to commemorate the first anniversary of the short lived Malolos Republic and honoring also the nationalistic citizens of Palanan. On February 1, in view of the large numbers of Americans advancing towards the town, President Aguinaldo requested re-enforcements from the military commander of Isabela.

On February 5, 1901, Lieutenant Colonel John S. Mallory falsely reported to Lieutenant Colonel Enoch Herbert Crowder (1859-1932; later became Ambassador to Cuba) that President Aguinaldo died a few days ago somewhere in the Cagayan Valley. The following day, the mail arrived in the afternoon in Palanan informing President Aguinaldo on the return of the Americans to Ambuayan in Abra. On February 14, the president issued an order to his soldiers not to fight the Filipino "loyals" in the service of

the American army, but to rage only against the American officers and soldiers who commit atrocities.

On March 7 of the same year, President Aguinaldo received a letter from Apolinario Mabini in Manila dated November 22, 1900, transmitting messages from U.S. Generals Arthur MacArthur, Jr. and James Franklin Bell (1856-1919) to the effect that independence cannot be granted and that Aguinaldo should return to Manila and live in Malacañang Palace with MacArthur. Mabini asked Aguinaldo whether he should plead independence or autonomy, now that McKinley (US President William McKinley) has been re-elected. The following day, the president instructed Apolinario Mabini to thank General Arthur MacArthur, in his behalf, for the invitation extended to him to live in Malacañang and to say that the Filipinos who have taken up arms have no other desire but for Philippine Independence.

On March 20, 1901, from Casiguran (the *USS Vicksburg* arrived on March 14), General Funston sent a falsified letter of General Lacuna to President Aguinaldo in Palanan informing him that a contingent of brave soldiers headed by Hilario Tal Placido (a rebel official of Aguinaldo) would be arriving as re-enforcement. The letter was craftily made by Roman Roque (also a rebel official of Aguinaldo) including the perfect forging of Lacuna's signature.

On March 22, President Aguinaldo celebrated his 32<sup>nd</sup> birthday. The remote village was in gala dress. Arches and other festive decorations were adorned. Horse races, dancing, serenades and amateur theatricals were conducted. President Aguinaldo sent rice to Colonel Tal Placido and his "worn out" men who were stationed six miles away from Palanan in Sitio Dibakal. Tal Placido earlier sent a messenger asking for provisions for his "tired" soldiers.

The following day, President Aguinaldo sent eleven soldiers to replace the "tired" soldiers of Colonel Tal Placido in Sitio Dinungdungan at six o'clock in the morning. At two in the afternoon, the newcomers crossed the Palanan River. At three o'clock in the afternoon, American forces led by General Frederick Funston, finally captured President Aguinaldo. Americans pretended to be prisoners of Filipino mercenaries composed of four Tagalogs which included Colonel Hilario Tal Placido, Lazaro Segovia (a Spanish soldier who first joined the revolutionary forces) and about eighty Macabebe (Pampanga) natives and thus gained access to the Filipino camp. The Americans who acted as captives were: Funston, Captains Harry W. Newton and Russell Trall Hazzard (1866-1921), First Lieutenants Oliver Perry Morton Hazzard (1876-1960) and Burton J. Mitchell.

On March 24, General Aguinaldo and his two fellow prisoners, Doctors Villa and Barcelona, tried to persuade the Macabebe soldiers in charge of giving them food to join them in turning the tables on Funston, but some of the Macabebes refused to cooperate and the plot failed. The following day, General Aguinaldo bade farewell to his men, through his nephew, Tomas Magsarilo. "This afternoon we will board the American war cruiser *Vicksburg*, which will cast anchor here at Sabang (Palanan Bay). Villa is wounded; Santos and I are not... What happened to me, though somewhat bad, will be transformed into something that will redound to the welfare of the Motherland..."

### **American Civil Government**

On August 24, 1901, civil government was established in Isabela with the passage of Act No. 210 which extended the provisions of "The Provincial Government Act" (enacted on February 6, 1901) and its amendments to the Province of Isabela. Governor William Howard Taft (1857-1930; who would later become the 27<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America and the 10<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice) appointed Captain William H. Johnson as the first American governor of Isabela. Other appointed officials were: Francisco

Dichoso as secretary, George W. Povey as treasurer and Atty. Bartolome Revilla (who would later become representative of Rizal province in the 1<sup>st</sup> Philippine Assembly) as fiscal.

On February 3, 1902, Francisco Dichoso y Reyes was elected as Isabela governor. On February 21 of the same year, Acting Governor-General Luke Edward Wright (1846-1922) confirmed the election of Francisco Dichoso through Executive Order No. 60 in accordance with Act No. 83 of the United States Philippine Commission.

On October 6, 1902, Act No. 467 of the Philippine Commission ordered that a comprehensive census be conducted on the Philippine Islands. The Province of Isabela was labeled as District No. 6 with the governor as head and N. B. Stewart as disbursing officer.

On March 10, 1917, Isabela was created as a regular province by virtue of Act No. 2711 of the Philippine Legislature.

### **Tomines' Revolution**

On June 1902, the Constabulary arrested twenty-five Ilocanos in Naguilian town and charged them with treason and sedition. On May 1903, Manuel Tomines of Naguilian, a former revolutionary officer, was visited by two emissaries sent by Pascual Hicaro Poblete (1857-1921) of the "revolutionary ring" of Manila with the commission to organize a rebellion. Signed by General Artemio Garcia Ricarte (1866-1945), Tomines was made a colonel in command of the Cagayan Valley, Ambrosio Logan a lieutenant colonel and Maurice Sibley, a major. Sibley was an American deserter from the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry who married an Ilongot native. The guns of the nationalistic Isabelinos, about 30 to 40 Krag-Jorgensen and Mauser rifles, were remnants from the group of Colonel Raymundo Jeciel when they surrendered to Major Henry T. Allen of the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry in Echague.

On January 3, 1904, Colonel Manuel Tomines started his revolution in Isabela and set camp at Rancho Payac in Echague (now a barangay of Jones town. They had several encounters in Carig and Echague, thus, delaying the pacification campaign of the Americans in Isabela.

Due to the Tomines issue President Theodore Roosevelt through Governor-General Luke E. Wright appointed George Curry (1861-1947); who would later become governor and U.S. Representative of New Mexico State) as Isabela governor replacing Dichoso.

On January 2, 1905, Colonel Manuel Tomines attacked Naguilian town at night with some two hundred men mostly relatives from the numerous Tomines clan from Barrio Tomines and with the connivance of the municipal officials. The small constabulary detachment was surprised and retreated across the river with the loss of one man. The wife of the Justice of the Peace was murdered.

The following day, the constabulary, together with the Justice of the Peace and six others, returned and disarmed the municipal police in the *casa tribunal* and engaged with the Tomines group. Presidente Municipal Alejandro Tomines (a cousin), Sities Tomines (a brother and municipal secretary), Francisco Acosta, Binino Acosta, ex-president Langay and another brother of Manuel Tomines were killed. Forty-five of the insurgents were killed. Maurice Sibley fled to the mountains with a number of Ilongots. On March 27, 1905, Colonel Manuel Tomines was captured and after trial was sentenced to death by the Court of First Instance of Isabela. Upon the confirmation of the death sentence by the Supreme Court of the Philippine Islands on January 21, an effort was made by his brother members of the Filipino Masonic Order on April 3 to secure his pardon. The petition for executive clemency was denied by Governor-

General Luke E. Wright through his Executive Secretary Arthur W. Fergusson (1859-1908).

### **American Period**

On January 15, 1905, elections for governor were held throughout the country except for Cavite and Isabela because the conditions prevailing rendered it inimical to public interest to hold the elections. The American central government in Manila appointed Blas Villamor as governor and served up to 1907.

The following served as provincial governor of Isabela during the American period: Basilio Eliseo Mamuri Claravall (1907-1909), Romualdo Guzman Mina (1909), Thomas Gollayan (1910-1912 & 1912-1916), Pascual Gangan Paguirigan (1919-1922), Ventura S. Guzman (1922-1925), Primo Gaffud (1925-1928), Florentino A. Nicolas (1928-1931), Fortunato Miranda Bulan (1931-1934 & 1934-1937), Agustin A. Pintang (1938-1939), Lino J. Castillejos (1939-1940 & 1944-1945), Gabriel Ramones Visaya (1941-1942 & 1945-1946), Agustin Villamor Bersamin (1942-1944), Gregorio P. Formoso (1945),

The following served as representative of Isabela in the Philippine Legislature during the American period: Nicasio P. Claravall (1907-1908), Dimas Guzman (1908-1909), Eliseo Mamuri Claravall (1909-1912 & 1912-1916), Mauro Verzosa (1916-1919, 1935-1938, & 1939-1941), Miguel Binag (1919-1922), Tolentino Verzosa (1922-1925), Manuel Martinez Nieto (1925-1928), Pascual Paguirigan (1928-1931), Silvestre Macutay (1931-1934), Silvino Madderay Gumpal (1934-1935) and Lino J. Castillejo (1941)

Isabela's delegate to the 1935 Constitutional Convention were: former Congressman Miguel B. Binag of Ilagan and lawyer Elias N. Ocampo

### **New Towns and Municipal Districts -**

#### **Reina Mercedes, Jones, Dalig, San Mariano, Antatet & Callang**

On June 13, 1913, Callang was formally made into an independent municipality. The name was later changed back to *Reina Mercedes*. In 1950, the town site of Reina Mercedes was transferred along the newly constructed national highway in the present Barangay Tallungan (the present site) from the old site along the Magat River.

On January 1, 1921, Barrio Cabannuangan was inaugurated as a town and christened as *Jones*, in honor of U.S. Congressman William Atkins Jones - author of the Philippine Autonomy Act of 1916. The first mayor of the newly created regular municipality located in the southern portion of Echague town across the Cagayan River was Antonio A. Vallejo.

On August 27, 1927, Dalig (forerunner of Aurora town and now a barangay of Burgos town) became a municipal district of Gamu with Ramon Nazareta as presidente. On July 1936, the *poblacion* of Dalig town was transferred to Kalabasa by a plebiscite conducted by the provincial board. In 1938, the town center of Dalig was transferred for the second time from Kalabasa to Bolinao, which was laid out by the Friar Lands Agency No. 5 of the Bureau of Lands. On May 12, 1948, Dalig was created into a regular municipality by virtue of Executive Order No.139 signed by His Excellency President Elpidio Quirino with Andres Samus Cammayo as the first mayor. The name *Dalig* was changed to *Aurora* in honor of Doña Aurora Molina Aragon Quezon (1888-1949), wife of Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon. The new town was inaugurated on July 4 of the same year.

On December 7 of the same year, the Municipal District of San Mariano became a regular municipality by virtue of Act No. 3416 of the Philippine Legislature.

In 1928, Antatet (site of old Alamo *pueblo* and later renamed to *Luna*) was approved as a municipal district of Cauayan with Alejandro Y. Andres as mayor. The name *Antatet* was probably derived from the combination of the name of a sturdy tree called *anteng* where under its leafy boughs the Kalingas held their special celebrations and the *tet, tet, tet* sound of the *ganza*, a metal musical instrument the natives use during rituals. On September 28, 1949, the Municipal District of Antatet was created into a regular municipality by virtue of Executive Order No. 267 signed by His Excellency President Elpidio Quirino with Vicente Galiza Agcaoili as mayor. The name of the new town was changed to *Luna* in honor of General Antonio Luna y Novicio (1866-1899), hero of the Philippine Revolution.

On October 12, 1937, Callang, the forerunner of San Manuel town, became a municipal district of Gamu town. The name *Callang* was a Kalinga word for *molave*, a kind of hard wood. On June 23, 1957, the Municipal District of was established into a municipality by virtue of Republic Act No. 2040 which became a law without the approval of the President of the Philippines, with Ignacio Eclar Mendoza as the first mayor. On June 21, 1968, Callang town was renamed to *San Manuel* by virtue of Republic Act No. 5869 with two barrios incorporated to its territory.

### **Japanese Occupation**

On December 9, 1941, the Japanese Imperial Army conducted bombing raids over the Philippines including Tuguegarao in Cagayan. The following day, they landed in Aparri and proceeded southwards to the direction of Isabela. The town of Jones became the temporary seat of the provincial government during the war torn year until it was captured the following year by the foreign invaders.

On January 8, 1942, the United States Forces in the Philippines, Northern Luzon (USFIPNL), the famous guerilla unit, was organized. The combined elements of the 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 71<sup>st</sup> Infantry, and Troop C of the 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry were led by Major C. Everett Warner (promoted to lieutenant colonel), Captains Guillermo Nakar (1905-1942) and Manuel P. Enriquez (both promoted to major). Nakar's 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion held line from Balete Pass (now Dalton Pass) to Bato Ferry (Bambang-Bayombong boundary) while Enriquez' 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion occupied the line from Bato Ferry to Aparri which included Isabela. The combined forces were known as the 1<sup>st</sup> Guerilla Regiment. It was later renamed to 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry USAFFE in recognition of their combat achievement in Tuguegarao on January 13.

On April 9, 1942, Bataan fell and the infamous Death March began in Mariveles. Numerous Isabelino soldiers and volunteers suffered and died in this horrific walk that ended in Capas in Tarlac. A number were fortunate to escape. On April 13 of the same year, Major Guillermo Z. Nakar was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and assigned as Commanding Officer of the 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry USAFFE by General Jonathan Wainwright and was stationed in Jones town. After re-organizing his command, Lt. Col. Nakar scattered his troops in small groups in order to lessen his logistical difficulties. He continued to harass and sabotage the enemy and at the same time maintained continuous radio contact with GHQ SWAP in Australia.

On May 3, 1942, Agustin Villamor Bersamin (1888-1970), municipal mayor of Santiago, was appointed as governor by the Japanese Military Commander, Masaharu Homma (1888-1946). Governor Bersamin saved many Isabelinos from execution by the Japanese with the help of General Nagasaki, Chief Military Administrator of Isabela, who was his classmate at Tokyo University.

On July 14, 1942, Colonel Nakar received instructions from General Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964) to induct all the officers and men of the 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry into the service of the Army of the United States. This gave the 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry the singular distinction of being the only guerilla or Philippine Army unit given the status of an "AUS" unit.



On September 1941, the Japanese High Command launched radial attacks from Baguio towards the Ilocos, Central Cordillera and Cagayan Valley which led to the break-up of the *guerilla* units and forced the troops into hiding. During this campaign, Colonel Nakar was captured after a traitor by the name of Damaso Leaño accompanied the Japanese soldiers in a cave at Barrio Minuli in Jones town. Even as a prisoner, Nakar remained defiant. Offered his freedom in exchange for signing his surrender papers and swearing allegiance to the Japanese, he bluntly refused, saying, "I cannot transfer my allegiance to the United States and my country." In Echague, the Japanese allowed him to speak in public as part of their propaganda campaign. Instead of humoring or kowtowing to his captors, Nakar denounced the Japanese for the abuses and cruelty they were inflicting on the people. Nakar was taken to Fort Santiago in Intramuros, Manila where he was executed on September 29. General Douglas MacArthur posthumously awarded Nakar the distinguished conduct star medal and promoted him to the rank of general.

On June 1943, Major Russell W. Volckmann (1911-1982) assumed the leadership of the USFIP NL and divided North Luzon into seven districts with Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya belonging to the 5<sup>th</sup> District and garrisoned by the 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry under the command of Major Romulo Manriquez.

On September 7, 1943, the Japanese inspired Philippine Constitution was "ratified" by the 117 KALIBAPI (Kapisanan ng Paglilingkod sa Bagong Pilipinas) with Lino J. Castillejos and Atty. Gregorio P. Formoso as the representatives of Isabela in the National Assembly.

On September 25, 1943, Doctor Jose Paciano Laurel, Sr. y Garcia (1891-1959) was elected as president (September 25, 1943-August 17, 1945) of the Japanese sponsored Philippine Republic and on February of the following year former governor and congressman Lino J. Castillejo was appointed as governor by His Excellency Jose P. Laurel.

On August 1, 1944, President Quezon died at Saranac Lake in the United States and Vice President Sergio Osmeña assumed the presidency. On October 20 of the same year, General Douglas MacArthur fulfilled his "I shall return" promise and landed at Leyte Gulf in full force. On December, the Japanese forces retreated to the "Yamashita Line", a battlefront stretching along the jungles of the Sierra Madre Range from Antipolo (in Rizal province) passing through the eastern part of Isabela to Aparri, Cagayan. In the course of their retreat, the Japanese pillaged Filipino homes, tortured and massacred innocent civilians and burned towns and villages particularly in the vicinity of Echague town. On the other hand, the U.S. Air Force made disastrous air attacks on Japanese camps in the province destroyed bridges, schools leveled to the ground, churches and even government buildings. The plains of Isabela were not spared from these attacks which resulted to the death of many Isabelinos.

On March 5, 1945, the 6<sup>th</sup> Army with the USFIP NL launched a successful operation against enemy garrisons and lines of communication and had practically liberated the entire northwest Luzon. On June 6, General Tomoyuki Yamashita (1885-1946), stationed outside Bayombong (Nueva Vizcaya) town, frantically tried to withdraw his troops in Cagayan Valley to join his forces in Kiangnan in Ifugao province. Isabela was liberated from the Japanese by the Filipino-American forces.

His Imperial Highness Prince Chichibu (also known as Prince Yasuhito; 1902-1953) of Japan arrived in Santiago town from Bayombong in Nueva Vizcaya together with twelve escorts and his trusted houseboy Ben Valmores. The prince was said to have led the "Golden Lily (Kin no yun) Operations" by which members of the imperial household allegedly were personally involved in stealing treasures from countries invaded by Japan during World War II.

On June 7, Prince Chichibu left behind their trucks in Santiago and followed the course of the Magat River to the north. Just before sunset, they encountered five guerillas two miles west of Barrio Cabatuan (now a town). After a heavy firefight, three of the escorts were killed. The following day, the prince instructed his houseboy Ben Valmores to bring with him the waxed maps in leather map case and go home in Bambang town in Nueva Vizcaya province. The prince further instructed to bury the said maps and only to open them after he had not claimed it in twenty years. The prince later reached the shoreline of Babuyan Bay, south of Santa Ana town in Cagayan on July 25 and boarded a submarine for Tokyo, Japan.

On June 13, by evening, the 145<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team (RCT) was at Santiago, twenty-two miles northeast of Bagabag (Nueva Vizcaya). Here the advance halted because bypassed elements of the 179<sup>th</sup> IIB were threatening to cut the line of communications not only of the 145<sup>th</sup> RCT but also of the 148<sup>th</sup> RCT, which had followed the 145<sup>th</sup> through Oriung Pass (in Bagabag town), the 129<sup>th</sup> RCT having taken over in the Bagabag area on June 12. By evening of June 14, advance elements of the 37<sup>th</sup> Division were at Echague, an airfield center eight miles east of Santiago. Two days later the 145<sup>th</sup> and 148<sup>th</sup> RCT's began moving into Cauayan, fifteen miles north along Route 5 from Echague.

On June 15, the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments, USAFIPNL, has cleared almost all the valley west of the Cagayan River from Cauayan north to Aparri (in Cagayan province) and had gained complete control over Route 11 from Bontoc (now part of Mountain Province) to the valley. Most of the Japanese combat troops left in the valley north of Cauayan were members of the Yuguchi Force, an understrength RCT of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Division. Upon the fall of the division's defenses at Oriung Pass, the Yuguchi Force had started south from the vicinity of Aparri, apparently intending to cross to the west side of the Cagayan River near Cauayan and make its way to Yamashita's last-stand area via Route 389 to Banaue town (now part of Ifugao province) on Route 4.

On June 17, the 37<sup>th</sup> Division resumed its advance up Route 5. By four in the afternoon, the 148<sup>th</sup> Infantry was on the east bank of the Cagayan River at Naguilian. Two days later advance elements were twelve miles beyond Naguilian at Bangag (a barrio of Ilagan town). Here opposition increased, because the 37<sup>th</sup> Division was banging headlong into elements of the Yuguchi Force that were still trying to move south along Route 5. In a running fight from June 19 to 23, the 37<sup>th</sup> Division killed over 600 Japanese and captured almost 285 more in the fifteen miles between Bangag and Balasig (a barrio of Cabagan town). In the same general area, the division destroyed or captured large amounts of Japanese equipment and supplies including fifteen or sixteen light tanks. By the end of the period the remnants of the Yuguchi Force were in full flight eastward into the untracked wilderness of the Sierra Madre, separating the Cagayan Valley from Luzon's east coast.

On August 12, 1945, Atty. Gregorio P. Formoso was appointed as governor. On September 2, 1945, Japanese Commander, General Tomoyuki Yamashita, surrendered the Japanese Imperial Army in Kiangnan in Ifugao province by handing his sword to Lieutenant Russel Bauman. Japanese Occupation of the valley and the Philippines ended and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic was dissolved. On October 22, deposed Governor Gabriel R. Visaya was reinstated as governor.

### **Third Republic**

On April 23, 1946, the first democratic elections after World War II was held with Manuel A. Roxas elected as president. On June 12, 1946, former Congressman Silvino M. Gumpal was appointed as governor by His Excellency President Manuel A. Roxas.

The following served as provincial governor of Isabela during the Third Republic: Silvino M. Gumpal (1946-1947 & 1948-1951), Felix T. Caro (1952-1955 & 1956-1959), Melanio Tangco Singson (1960-1963 & 1964-1965), Leocadio Estevez Ignacio (1965-1967), Samuel F. Reyes (1968-1971) and Faustino Ng Dy (1972-1980 & 1980-1986).

The following served as representative of Isabela in the Philippine Legislature during the Third Republic: Domingo Paguirigan (1946-1949), Samuel F. Reyes (1949-1953 & 1953-1957), Delfin B. Albano (1957-1961 & 1961-1965), Melanio T. Singson (1965-1969) and Rodolfo B. Albano, Jr. (1959-1972).

#### **New Towns -**

**San Mateo, Roxas, Santo Tomas, Alicia, San Agustin, Cabatuan, Mallig, Magsaysay, Quezon, Ramon, Benito Soliven, Burgos, Quirino, San Guillermo, San Isidro, Dinapigue, Divilacan and Maconacon**

In 1942, Barrio Marasat Grande and the neighboring barrios (now all part of San Mateo town) were made into a municipality called *Yoshisawa* with Doroteo Barbero as the appointed mayor followed by Estanislao R. Bueno (July 1943). After Liberation, the town was reverted back as a barrio of Santiago town. On March 17, 1946, Marasat Grande and the adjoining barrios were separated from the mother-town of Santiago and were constituted into a regular municipality by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 90 by His Excellency President Sergio Osmeña with Mateo Cadeliña as the first mayor. The new town was named *San Mateo* in honor of the acknowledged founder, Don Mateo Cadeliña y Acierda (1881-1978).

On July 1, of the same year, Vira and the surrounding barrios situated in the western part of Gamu town were created into a municipality by virtue Executive Order No. 136 signed by His Excellency President Elpidio Quirino. The new town was christened *Roxas* in honor of Quirino's predecessor, President (1946-1948) Manuel Acuña Roxas (1892-1946) and was inaugurated on July 4 of the same year with Rafael Binala Lintao as the first mayor.

On the same date, the Barrio of Santo Tomas was separated from the mother-town of Cabagan and was created into a regular municipality by virtue of Executive Order No. 199 signed by His Excellency President Elpidio Quirino with Isidro Jimenez as the first mayor. *Santo Tomas* was named after the pioneers of the town, Don Tomas Gatan and Don Tomas Bautista.

On the same date, Angadanan Viejo was separated from the mother-town of Angadanan and was created as a regular municipality by virtue of Executive Order No. 268 signed by His Excellency President Elpidio Quirino in Malacañang with Glicerio F. Acosta as the first mayor. The new town was renamed *Alicia* in honor of Doña Alicia Syquia Quirino, wife of President Quirino who was killed by the Japanese during World War II.

On the same date, Barrio Masaya and the adjoining barrios in the southern part of Jones town were created into a regular municipality and named *San Agustin* by virtue of Executive Order No. 269 signed by his Excellency President Elpidio Quirino in Malacañang with Agustin Daguro Agpaoa as the first mayor. The new town was named after their patron saint, San Agustin.

On November 5, 1949, Barrio Cabatuan, originally Ambatuan, and its integral parts were separated from the mother-town of Cauayan by virtue of Executive Order No. 293 signed by His Excellency President Elpidio Quirino in Malacañang with Teodulfo Duran Rumbaoa as the first mayor. The new town was inaugurated on November 30 of the same year. The name *Cabatuan* was derived from the word *bat* which was abundant in

the locality and from the act of *nagbabatuhan* or *throwing stones at each other* between the migrant Ilocanos and the marauding Kalingas during the pioneering period.

On April 8, 1952, Mallig was created as a municipality by the passage of House Bill 678 sponsored by Congressman Samuel F. Reyes which was signed into law (RA 678) by His Excellency President Elpidio Quirino. It was inaugurated on July 4, 1953 with Pedro Y. Lactaoas the first mayor.

On October 10, 1957, the Municipality of Magsaysay (later renamed to *Delfin Albano*) was created. It was separated from the mother-town of Tumauni by virtue of Republic Act No. 2009 signed by His Excellency President Carlos P. Garcia with Vicente Perez Taccad as the first mayor. The new town was named after the 7<sup>th</sup> Philippine president (1953-1957), Ramon Magsaysay y del Fierro (1907-1957). On October 3, the name of the Municipality of Magsaysay was changed to *Delfin Albano* by virtue of Batas Pambansa No. 291 to honor former provincial board member (1948-1951) and two time congressman (1958-1965) from Cabagan, Honorable Delfin Albano y Balabbo.

On June 29, 1959, the Municipality of Quezon was created by Republic Act No. 2418 signed by His Excellency President Carlos P. Garcia with Hildebrando Pecson as the first mayor. House Bill No. 736, authored by Congressman Delfin B. Albano, extracted the northern portion of Mallig town to create a new municipality and named after President (1935-1944) Manuel Luis Quezon Antonio y Molina (1878-1944).

On July 18, 1961, Ramon, site of the ancient *pueblo* of Lappau, Begona and Oscariz, was created as a municipality and carved from Santiago by virtue of Republic Act No. 3320 sponsored by Congressman Delfin B. Albano. The new town was named after the 7<sup>th</sup> Philippine president (1953-1957), Ramon Magsaysay y del Fierro (1907-1957) and its first mayor was Angelino F. Vizcarra.

On May 18, 1967, Barrio Melappia of San Mariano town was created into a regular municipality by virtue of Republic Act No. 4873 with Emilio R. Bueno as the first mayor. The new town was christened with the name *Benito Soliven* (1898-1945) in honor of the World War II hero and assemblyman from Ilocos Sur province.

On the same date, the Municipality of Burgos was created by extracting the large Barrios of Caliguian, Cullalabo and Mabini from Gamu town by virtue of Republic Act No. 4877 signed by his Excellency President Ferdinand E. Marcos with Perfecto Ruiz dela Cruz as the first mayor. Congressman Melanio T. Singson introduced House Bill No. 5930 creating the town which was named after the Ilocano martyr-priest, Jose Apolonio Burgos y Garcia (1837-1872).

On June 17, 1967, Quirino was created as a municipality by virtue of Republic Act No. 4901 signed by His Excellency President Ferdinand E. Marcos with Vicente Torres Callangan as the first mayor. Barrios from Gamu, Ilagan and Roxas constituted the new town which was named in honor of the Ilocano President (1948- 1953) Elpidio Quirino y Rivera (1890-1956). President Quirino signed the creation of eight municipalities of Isabela, namely: Aurora, Roxas, Santo Tomas, Luna, Alicia, San Agustin, Cabatuan and Mallig.

On the same date, Mayor Eugenio S. Guillermo lobbied for the creation of a new town in the eastern portion of Angadanan. House Bill No. 4899 was sponsored by Congressman Melanio T. Singson which became Republic Act No. 4906 signed by His Excellency President Ferdinand E. Marcos. The new town was named after their patron saint, San Guillermo with Alvaro T. Filart as the first mayor.

Also on the same date, the Ganano region of northwestern Echague town was created as a municipality by virtue of Republic Act No. 5139 with Benedicto M. Mariano as the

first mayor. Barrio Captain Guillermo Mariano, Echague Municipal Councilor Ricardo Nitro, former Mayor and incumbent Provincial Board Member Patricio O. Ramos lobbied to Congressman Melanio T. Singson to sponsor a bill to Congress creating a new town out of old Echague. Board Member Ramos recommended that *San Isidro* be the name of the new town with San Isidro Labrador as patron. *Pueblo de Camarag*, the old capital of Nueva Vizcaya province, became one of the barangays of this town.

On June 21, 1968, Dinapigue, a municipal district of San Mariano town, was constituted into a regular municipality by virtue of Republic Act 5776 sponsored by Congressman Melanio T. Singson with Juan O. Derije as the first mayor. The name Dinapigue was derived from the name of a tribal leader. Another version was it came from the Dumagat term "dinapigue" or "dinapigui" referring to the hind legs of wild pigs or "baboyramo" which were once abundant in the locality. "Di" means "from" or "many" and "pigue" means "hind legs". Another version states that it came from the names of the lovers Dina and Pigue who were deprived of their love because of tradition.

On the same date, Divilacan, a former sitio of Barrio Antagan in Tumauni town, became a municipality as mandated by Republic Act No. 5776 sponsored by Congressman Melanio T. Singson. The origin of the name came from two Dumagat words, "vili" which means "shell" and "ican" which means "fish". The word "di" connoted "origin". The new town was carved from the territories of the municipalities of Ilagan, Tumauni and Palanan with Wenceslao A. Alaska as the first mayor.

Also on the same date, the Municipality of Maconacon was created from the territories of San Pablo and Cabagan towns by virtue of Republic Act No. 5776 sponsored by Congressman Melanio T. Singson with Victoriano R. Eduarte as the first mayor. The name *Maconacon* is a Dumagat term which means "where conacon abound". "Conacon" refers to the "bellang" plant or palma brava leaf (*Heterospathe elata*).

### **Martial Law & the Fourth Republic**

On November 10, 1970, Atty. Francisco B. Albano, Jr. of Cabagan, Heherson Turingan Alvarez of Santiago, Atty. Celso D. Gangan of Ilagan, former Governor Leocadio E. Ignacio of Mallig and Atty. Benjamin Cayaba Reyes of Cauayan were elected as delegates to the 1971 Constitutional Convention (Con-Con).

On July 1972, the Philippine Constabulary (PC) raided a hideout of the New People's Army (NPA) in Barrio Tarimsing in Cordon town and captured literatures showing a communist plot to attack from July to August 1972. The joint elements of the 116<sup>th</sup> Philippine Constabulary Company led by Second Lieutenant Napoleon C. Castro (Executive Officer and later became colonel) and the Isabela Constabulary Command (ICC) led by Second Lieutenant Edgar B. Aglipay (Intelligence and Operations Officer and later became the 11<sup>th</sup> Chief PNP) with Staff Sergeant Donato P. Perez (NCOIC) left station for Palanan on board a U-17 reconnaissance plane to verify the veracity of reports regarding the presence of submarines and other vessels allegedly unloading armament and supplies intended for NPAs on the eastern shores of Isabela. The team while patrolling the shorelines of Digoyo Point at about four o'clock in the afternoon of July 5, discovers the *MV Karagatan* which has just unloaded arms and supplies intended for the NPAs. While in the process of towing the ship, the team was subjected to heavy fire by the NPAs who were entrenched along the shorelines. During the exchange of fires Constabulary Second Class Lope Domingo and Ramon Bibit, Jr. (later became colonel) sustained gunshot wounds. The team although outnumbered, thirsty, hungry and seasick clung in defense of the *MV Karagatan* for three days and three nights thus preventing the NPAs from taking possession of the ship. This operation, now known as the "Palanan Incident", captured 500 M-14 rifles, 6 rocket launchers (said to be Chicom or Chinese Communist copies of a Russian prototype rocket launcher) and

160,000 rounds of ammunition. This was one of the crises which precipitated the imposition of Martial Law.

On September 21, 1972, Proclamation 1081, otherwise known as *Martial Law*, was declared throughout the country. Several Isabelinos including some clergy were “invited” to military camps for questioning. On January 17, 1981, Proclamation No. 2045 lifting martial rule was signed ending the eight year and four months Martial Law in the Philippines.

The following served in the Interim Batasang Pambansa from 1978 to 1984: Rodolfo B. Albano, Jr. and Prospero G. Bello and in the Regular Batasang Pambansa from 1984 to 1986: Rodolfo B. Albano, Jr., Prospero G. Bello and Simplicio B. Domingo, Jr.

### **Fifth Republic**

On February 22, 1986, the People Power uprising at EDSA (Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue) was ignited and culminated upon the departure of President Marcos and his family on February 25. Many Isabelinos studying and residing in Metro Manila joined the popular revolt. Widow of slain Senator Benigno S. Aquino, Jr., Corazon C. Aquino, assumed the presidency with former senator Salvador H. Laurel as vice president. On May of the same year, former governor and congressman Melanio T. Singson was appointed as governor by President Corazon C. Aquino.

The following served as provincial governor of Isabela during the Fifth Republic: Melanio T. Singson (1986-1987), Silvestre Hernando Bello, Jr. (1987-1988), Faustino N. Dy (1988-1992), Benjamin Guzman Dy (1991-1995, 1995-1998 & 1998-2001), Faustino Sanchez Dy, Jr. (2001-2004), Maria Gracia Cielo Magno Padaca (2004-2007 & 2007-2010) and Faustino Guzman Dy III (2010-2013, 2013-2016 & 2016 to present).

The following served as representatives of Isabela in the Fifth Republic: Rodolfo B. Albano, Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> 1988-1992, 1992-1995, 1995-1998, 2001-2004 & 2010-2013), Simplicio B. Domingo, Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> 1988-1992), Santiago P. Respicio (3<sup>rd</sup> 1988-1992, 1992-1995 & 1995-1998), Antonio M. Abaya (4<sup>th</sup> 1988-1992, 1992-1995, 1995-1998 & 2001-2003), Faustino S. Dy, Jr. (1992-1995, 1995-1998 & 1998-2001), Rodolfo T. Albano III (1998-2001, 2004-2007, 2007-2010, 2013-2016 & 2016 to present), Ramon M. Reyes (1998-2001), Heherson T. Alvarez (1998-2001), Edwin C. Uy (2001-2004, 2004-2007 & 2007-2010), Faustino G. Dy III (2001-2004, 2004-2007 & 2007-2010), Giorgidi B. Aggabao (2003-2004, 2007-2010, 2010-2013 & 2013-2016), Anthony Miranda (2004-2007), Ana Cristina S. Go (2010-2013, 2013-2016 & 2016 to present), Napoleon S. Dy (2010-2013, 2013-2016 & 2016 to present), Maria Lourdes R. Aggabao (2016 to present), Arnel U. Ty, (LPGMA Partylist 2010-2013, 2013-2016 & 2016 to present), Silvestre H. Bello III (1BAP Partylist 2013-2016) and Jose T. Panganiban, Jr. (ANAC-IP Partylist 2013-2016 & 2016 to present)

### **Capitol Sites**

In 1911, the lot for the provincial capitol building in Barrio Bagumbayan was donated. In 1945, the provincial capitol site was transferred to Osmeña and a new capitol building was constructed. On September 22, 1992, the new provincial capitol, one of the most modern government facilities in the country, situated in Barangay Alibagu in Ilagan capital-town was inaugurated by His Excellency President Fidel V. Ramos.

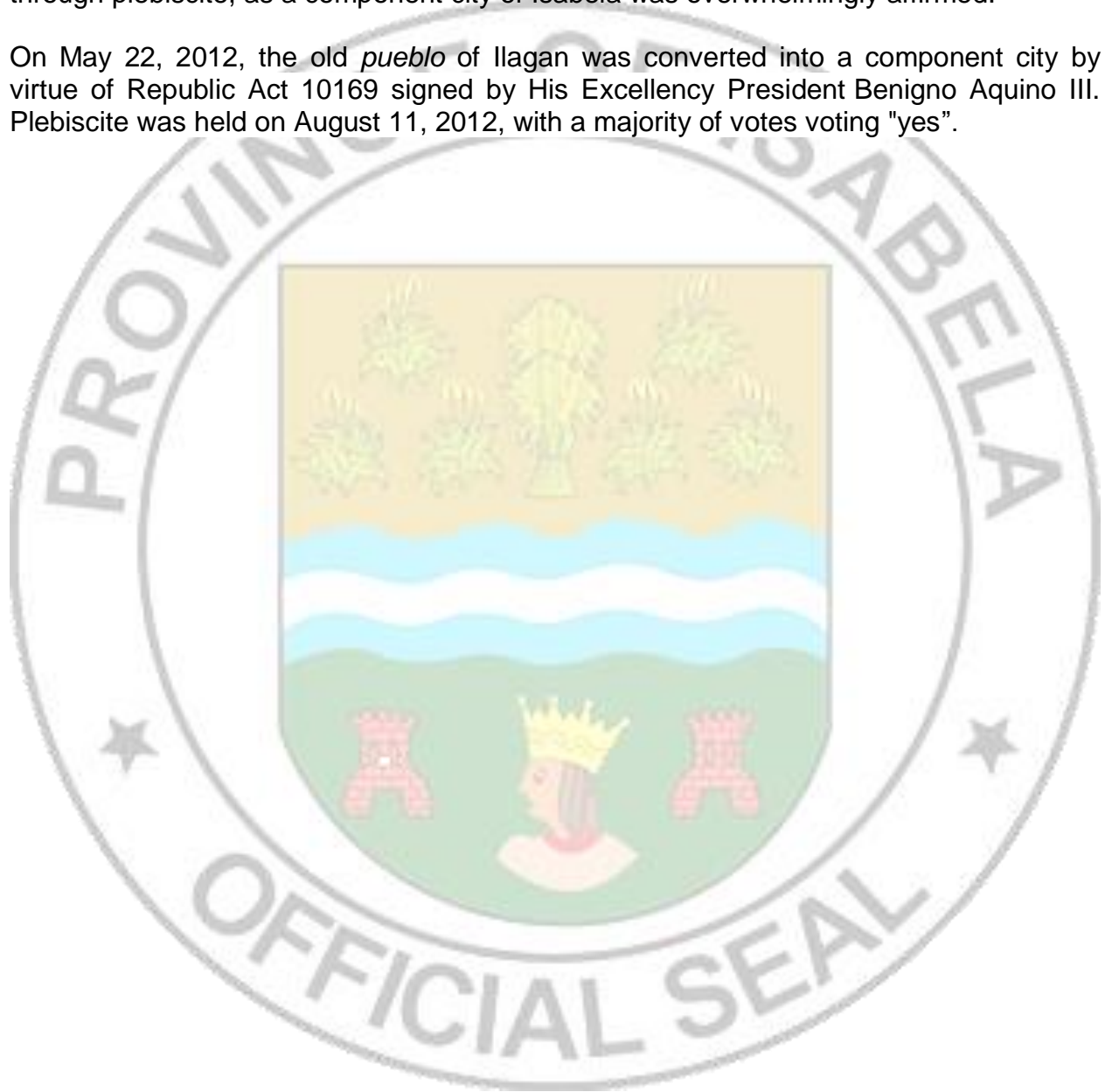
### **Cities of Isabela**

On May 5, the old *pueblo* of Santiago, the commercial gateway of Region 2, has been converted to an independent component city by virtue of Republic Act No. 7720 (House Bill No. 8817 & Senate Bill No. 1243) signed by His Excellency President Fidel V.

Ramos in Malacañang with Jose C. Miranda as the first city mayor. This made Santiago, self governing and autonomous city from the rule of the provincial governor. Republic Act No. 8528 repealed this statute transforming it back to a component city. It was not until December 29, 1999, when the Supreme Court contested the validity of the latter decision and favored Santiago to be once again an independent component city. On July 3, 1994, the cityhood of Santiago was ratified through a plebiscite.

On February 28, 2001, the old *pueblo* of Cauayan was created into a component city by virtue of Republic Act No. 9017 (House Bill No. 8328 & Senate Bill 2243) signed by Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with incumbent Mayor Faustino G. Dy III as the first city mayor. On March 30 of the same year, the ratification of Cauayan, through plebiscite, as a component city of Isabela was overwhelmingly affirmed.

On May 22, 2012, the old *pueblo* of Ilagan was converted into a component city by virtue of Republic Act 10169 signed by His Excellency President Benigno Aquino III. Plebiscite was held on August 11, 2012, with a majority of votes voting "yes".



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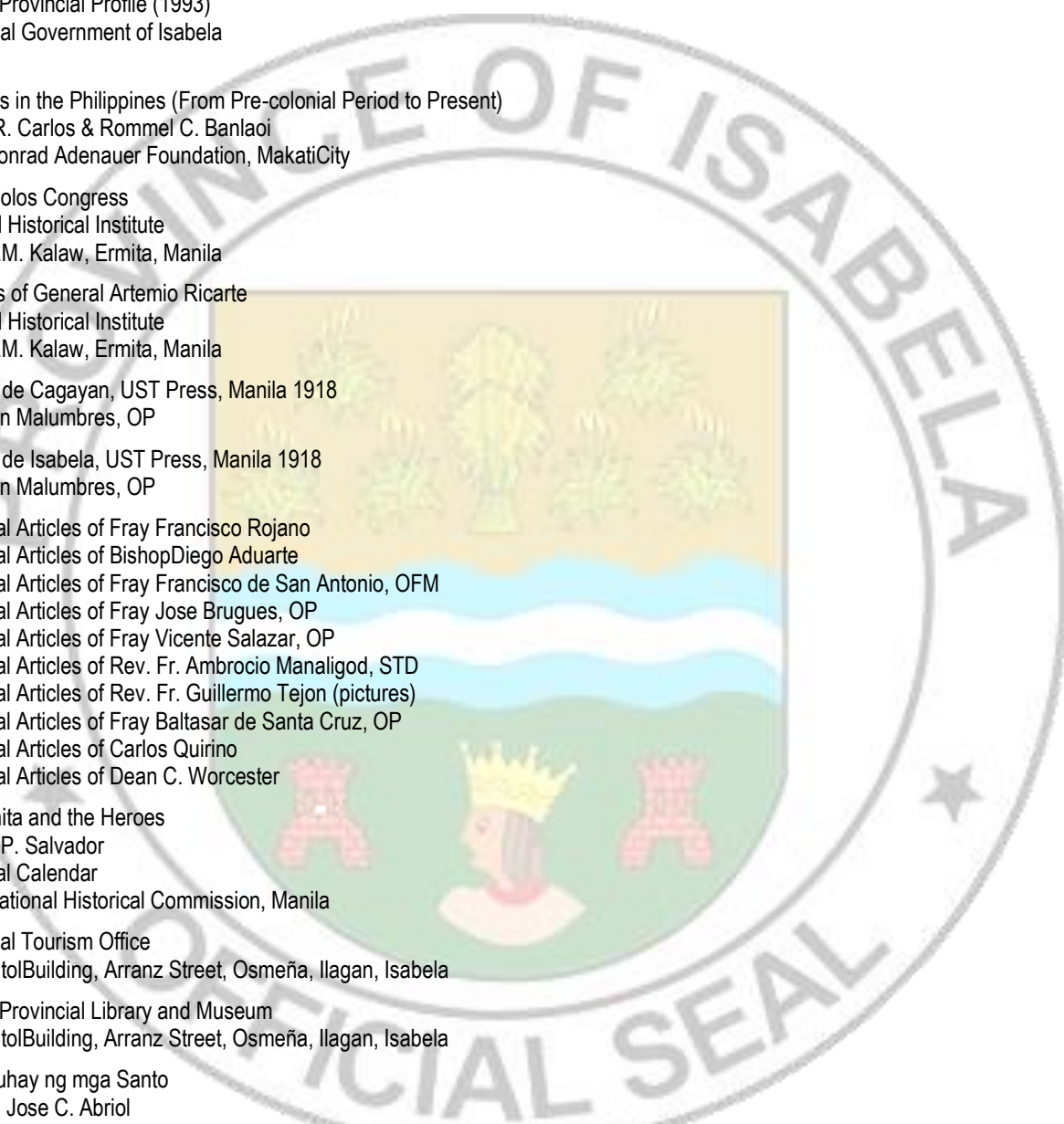
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