



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION & BRIEF HISTORY

1.1 Origin of the Name

People of this town had known many stories of how Orion got its name. Some folks say that Udyong was the first name adapted by this town. It came from the words "lu-ad" and "uryong" which meant muddy, because of the fact that the place was muddy and swampy during those times.

Another popular story was that during the Spanish regime, some Spanish soldiers happened to pass by this town. They did not know the name of the place so they asked the people they saw in the ricefields. One of the soldiers pointed his finger to the ground and asked, "Que es el llama pueblo?".

Not understanding Spanish, the people thought that the soldier was referring to something he saw on the ground that happens to be a worm. They hurriedly answered "uod yon", referring to the worm. When the soldiers heard the word, they thought that the citizens were referring to the name of the town, and left the place mumbling to themselves, "Uod, uod yon". Thus, the town became known as "Udyong", and was later changed to Orion.

1.2 Brief History

1.2.1. Orion During the Spanish Era

During the Spanish era, the archipelago of Bataan was divided into two (2): 1) "Corregimiento de Mariveles", which consisted of

the towns of Mariveles, Bagac and Morong extending to the boundary of Pampanga, while the other part consisted of the towns of Orion, Pilar, Balanga, Abucay, Samal, Orani, Llana Hermosa and San Juan de Dinalupihan. According to reports the "Corregimiento de Mariveles" was under the supervision of Zambales.

When the Spanish Conquistadores arrived from Pampanga in 1571, they discovered that Bataan had an already existing government and a big portion of Bataan was under the territorial jurisdiction of Pampanga. During those years, the "economienda" system was enforced which granted huge land estates to influential people. This system gradually ceased when the Province of Bataan was established in 1754 and separated from Pampanga through the efforts of then Governor-General Pedro Manuel de Arandia.

It was believed that the town of Orion was established by a Spaniard name Trajano. Through his perseverance, he was able to clear large part of the town, which was known as Calungusan and he was the first to settle here. From Calungusan, he moved his family to the town proper (poblacion). Upon his death in Hagonoy, where he migrated, his properties were transferred to the Trillana Family who administered his properties when the Trajano Family migrated to Hagonoy.

Although the exact date of official recognition of the municipality of Orion could not be ascertained, records show that this municipality was founded by a Dominican priest named Father Domingo Perez on April 30, 1667. But it can be said that Father Perez may have just continued what Trajano started and developed. Due to the distance of Orion from Abucay which has jurisdiction over Orion, the authorities decided to separate Orion from Abucay when sufficient number of residents had settled here. On April 30, 1667, Orion was established as a district town which was comprised by the barrios of Pandam and Calungusan.

On September 16, 1852, a strong earthquake shook the whole archipelago and caused the destruction of the parochial church, which was later rebuilt by Father Ulpiano Herrera, the parish priest



of the town at that time. In 1892, forty years later, a big conflagration practically burned the whole town so that only three houses remained standing. It was Father Campones who tried to reconstruct the town from the ashes and ruins of the fire. This was the start of progress.

When the movement against the Spanish regime spread across the country, the Katipunan (KKK) had an affiliate established in Mariveles. This spread to other towns in Bataan. In 1896, Francisco Dinglas arrived in Cabcaben, Mariveles from Corregidor. He used the “*non de plum*” “*Walang Sugat*” and established the KKK with the help of Teodoro Barcarse, recruited members from the other towns including Orion, while Ubano de Guzman trained the youngsters from Orion in martial arts – “*Manumano*” and “*arnis*”. They were known as “*Dampulan*” from the materials they used to sew pants. They were also the first members of KKK in Orion under Victor Baltazar.

1.2.2. Orion During World War 2

The year 1941 saw the destruction of the once prospering town of Orion as the entire Bataan Peninsula became the last standing ground of the Filipino and American soldiers. Filipino and American soldiers fought hand in hand against the Japanese Forces, but eventually lost. On April 9, 1942, the Fall of Bataan was marked by the infamous “*Death March*”. After the war, the town of Orion suffered a great deal of destruction and had to be rebuilt from the ruins of war.

1.2.3. Significant Historical Personalities

Don Cayetano Arellano

Among Orion’s other contributions to Philippine history is Don Cayetano Arellano, the first Filipino chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Figure 1.1: Map of Bataan Showing Situation During World War 2



Source: http://corregidor.org/chs_map/map_main.htm



Figure 1.2:
Don Cayetano Arellano
(1847-2000)

Cayetano Arellano was born in Udiong (later Orion), Bataan on March 2, 1847. His Father was a Spaniard named Servando Arellano who was married to Cristina Lanzon.

He started as a working student in San Juan de Letran. After finishing his studies he transferred to Sto. Thomas University, where he finished his Bachelor of Philosophy in 1862 and Bachelor of Theology in 1867. He then continued studying and finished law in 1876.

After passing the bar examination, he ran his own office and at the same time a professor at the University of Sto. Thomas teaching

Civil Code. Cayetano's ability to teach law made many lawyers like him. They felt that they owed him a debt of gratitude. In fact, according to US President Warren G. Harding (term of office: 1921-1923), Arellano could be matched to the Best Jurist in the world.

In 1886, he was named "Magistrado Suplente" and in 1893 he was appointed member of the provincial assembly and entrusted to him the basic rules of the assembly. After a few years, he became "Magistrado Suplente dela Audencia Territorial de Manila."

During the war, Don Cayetano became Secretary of Foreign Affairs. He was a councilor of the city of Manila in 1877. In 1898, he again re-opened his law office. He was appointed Head of the Highest Court in the country on May 29, 1899. He was the very first Filipino to hold this great position.

When the jurist toured the different parts of the world in 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him to represent the United States to the Philippines. He was also honored with a Doctor

of Laws degree by the University of Yale. Ten years later, the University of the Philippines gave him the same honor for his competence and dedication.

Cayetano died on December 23, 1920. Before he died, he requested "No flowers and ceremonies", instead he insisted having a simple funeral.

Established in 1938, the Arellano Law School located in Pasay City, Metro Manila, was so founded in honor of him. A barangay in Orion was also named after him. A marker in front of the Municipio stands in his remembrance.

Figure 1.3: Don Cayetano Arellano Marker in front of the Municipio





Francisco Balagtas

Another historical figure which can be associated with Orion is the great Filipino poet, Francisco Balagtas. Although Francisco Balagtas did not really come from Orion (he was born in Bulacan and raised in Manila), it was here in Orion where Balagtas moved after his release in prison and met his wife, Juana Tiambeng. Together, they had eleven children—five boys and six girls.

Born on April 2, 1788, Balagtas learned to write poetry from Jose dela Cruz (Huseng Sisiw), one of the most famous poets of Tondo. It was Jose dela Cruz himself who personally challenged Balagtas to improve his writing. In 1835, Kiko moved to Pandacan, where he met Maria Asuncion Rivera, who would effectively serve as the muse for his future works. She is referenced in *Florante at Laura* as 'Celia' and 'MAR'.

Balagtas' affections for Celia were challenged by the influential Mariano Capule. Capule won the battle for Celia when he used his wealth to get Balagtas imprisoned. It was here that he wrote "*Florante at Laura*". In fact, the events of this poem were meant to parallel his own situation. He wrote his poems in Tagalog, during an age when Filipino writing was predominantly written in Spanish. Scholars believe that his poems reflect the abuses of the Spanish colonists.

Upon his release from prison, he published "*Florante at Laura*" in 1838. He also became involved in the fight for freedom, serving as

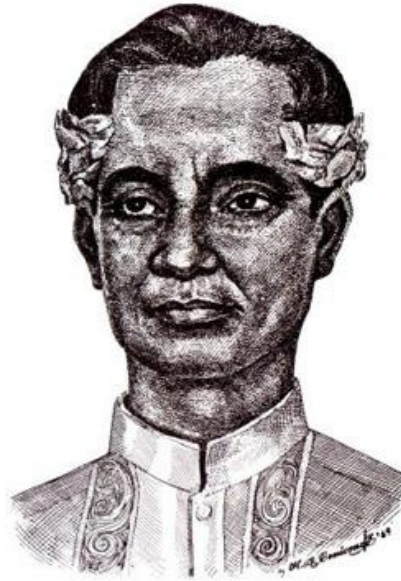


Figure 1.4:
Francisco Balagtas
(1788 – 1862)

a Major Lieutenant after moving to Udyong, Bataan in 1840. It was here that he met Juana Tiambeng whom he would wed in 1842. Balagtas continued writing poetry until his death in 1862 at the age of 74.

Just like Don Cayetano Arellano, a barangay in Orion was named in Francisco Balagtas' honor.

1.3 Official Seal of Orion

Figure 1.5: Official Seal of Orion



The official seal of Orion is divided into two halves, representing the two most prominent industries in Orion. On the left half is an image of a farmland, which represents the agriculture industry in Orion. On the right half is an image of boat in the middle of the sea, which represents the fishing industry in Orion. In the background of the image of the sea is a mountain range, representing the mountainous western part of the municipality. Dividing these two halves is an image of a sword with scales, which represents Don Cayetano Arellano, the first Filipino Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Orion's most famous son.