CITY OF LEGAZPI, PHILIPPINES: MAPPING ITS TANGIBLE HISTORICAL ASSETS
Ruby Ann L. Ayo, Ph.D.

ABSTRACT

The study looked into the documentation of the cultural heritage sites all over the City of Legaspi as a way of preservation. Specifically, it (1) identified the various historical landmarks within the City of Legaspi; (2) plotted the actual sites where these historical landmarks are found; (3) came up with brief narratives on the beginnings, significance and other relevant details of the identified historical landmarks; (4) developed session plans reflecting the integration of historical narratives in the teaching of history in grade 3 Araling Panlipunan (Social Studies).

Data were taken from secondary sources and were critiqued by an expert. The following were the findings and conclusion: The City of Legazpi, Philippines has eight (8) existing monuments symbolizing the historical roots of the people. These are the monuments of the: (1) Battle of Legazpi Trylon, (2) Jose Ignacio Paua, (3) Legazpi-Albay Gulf Landing, (4) Headless Monument, (5) Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, (6) Penaranda Monument, (7) Liberty Bell and (8) Simeon A. Ola. These monuments are representations either by persons who made significant contributions in the struggles and triumphs of the Legazpeños against the colonizers or depictions of the past events with historical significance. Hence, due to their substantial significance in Legazpi City’s past then, they are considered as historical landmarks. And, as tangible cultural heritage they serve as physical reminders of the rich historical past of both the people and the place- the city of the present Legazpi.

The identified historical landmarks are found within the vicinity of the Legazpi City. The monument of the Battle of Trylon is found in the heart of the downtown Legazpi; While the monument of Jose Ignacio Paua is along Rizal St. at Brgy. 2, Banadero; the monument of the Legazpi-Albay Gulf Landing is located in Brgy. Rawis; the Headless Monument is found in front of the Legazpi City Post Office also at the heart of the downtown. Meanwhile, the bust of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi is located within the compound of the Legazpi City Hall while the monument of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi is found along Legazpi Boulevard near the Bureau of Fire Station. On the other hand, the Penaranda Monument occupies a significant location in the Penaranda Park opposite the monument of the Liberty Bell. The Penaranda Park is located in front of the Albay Provincial Capitol. Lastly, the Simeon A. Ola monument is located at the entrance gate of the Camp Simeon Ola along Rizal St. The identified historical landmarks are located in the center of the City of Legazpi.

The historical narratives include the significant chronological events involving personages, places and events which are deemed important in the past of the City of Legazpi. The chronology of events as captured in narratives are deemed as key instruments for the people of the present Legazpi City to know their roots deeper and better thus, creating an appreciation of what and how to be a Legaspeños.

The eight (8) developed session plans for grade 3- Araling Panlipunan (Social Studies) are reflective of the objectives, the values to be integrated, the themes of the grade 3- AP curriculum and the specific tasks and the processes to be undertaken. The developed session plans are reflective of the narratives of the significant events and people in the history of the City of
Introduction

Anthropologists define cultural heritage as “the legacy of physical artifacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations maintained and bestowed for the future generations”. Cultural heritage includes both tangible and intangible culture. Tangible cultural heritage are classified as movable, immovable and underwater. Examples of the tangible cultures are monuments, buildings, landscapes, works of arts and among others. On the other hand, examples of intangible culture are tradition, language and folklore (portal.unesco.org).

Cultural heritage therefore speaks much about a certain group of people as their ideas and practices are reflected in their legacies. Some of these cultural heritages are not given importance that they face the danger of destruction and eventually buried into extinction and eventually completely forgotten. The destruction at times is due to insufficient knowledge.

The UNESCO’s Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation recognizes the commitment, efforts exerted as well as contributions in any form whether by individual or organizations whose endeavor reaped positive results in the preservation and or conservation of cultural heritage (www.unescobkk.org/culture/wh/asia-pacific-heritage-awards). This reflects the importance of coming-up with certain measures to really preserve the existing cultural heritage for the future generation.

The historical landmarks seen in selected spots are reflection of the cultural heritage of a certain group of people. The City of Legaspi has in its list an abundance of the cultural heritage embodied in the historical landmarks found in the various areas. This is one of the numerous places in the Philippines that possess wealth of cultural heritage. These mammon of cultural legacy wait to be noticed and eventually be documented for the sake of future generations not only of the Legaspenos but of the entire Bicolanos and even Filipinos. As the writer Tonybee pointed-out, “people respond to the challenges brought by ideas and technology” hence, this is Bicol University’s humble way of responding to the challenge wherein as observed only a few give importance to the rich cultural heritage possess by the various places in the entire City of Legaspi. It is with these considerations that this proposal is being forwarded.

Objectives

The study looked-into the documentation of the cultural heritage sites all over the City of Legaspi, Philippines as a way of preservation. Specifically, it (1) identified the various historical landmarks within the City of Legaspi, Philippines; (2) plotted the actual sites where these historical landmarks are found; (3) came-up with brief narratives on the beginnings, significance and other relevant details of the identified historical landmarks; (4) developed session plans reflecting the integration of historical narratives in the teaching of history in the (a) tertiary level; (b) grade 3 Araling Panlipunan (Social Studies).

Review of Related Studies and Literatures

In most cases, local history is taken for granted. Even though it provides the key for understanding the past yet, the country is still influenced by looking into history based on the national perspective. Often times, it is forgotten that what underlies a “great” history is founded on local history.

Local history may be strengthened through the preservation and conservation of the existing cultural heritage particularly the tangible ones. From the physical surveys, it appears that there are physical structures which may help in the development and promotion of local history. The tangible cultural heritage such as historical landmarks may be tapped
to awaken the historical consciousness of the people. Historical landmarks are meant to remind the people in the contemporary time of the people and events that helped shape the history of the country. The Philippines has long lists of historic shrines and monuments being a country with rich cultural and historical heritage (http://www.bukisa.com/articles/94123_famous-historic-shrines-and-monument-in-the-philippines). The Bikol Region has a share of government recognized cultural properties based on the lists provided by the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) and the National Museum of the Philippines (NMP) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/list_of_Cultural_Properties_of_the_Philippines_in_the_Bicol_Region).

In Bikol historiography, historians observed the inadequacy of regional local history. Churchill noted “Bikolanos themselves bewail the people’s inadequate knowledge of their history and culture” (Ragragio, 2012). From the gaps identified several approaches were proposed. One of these is the per province approach which will integrate the peripheral cities and towns of the Kabikolan into an overall historical scheme. Another is the call for definitive history.

In line with the proposal on the integration of the history of the provinces, cities and towns into a general historical scheme, plays the importance of the existing monuments. In the guidelines set by the NHCP monuments refer to “the full bodied statues, busts, pedestals, pylons, arches, relief murals and the like”. These are considered as great landmarks of towns and cities. Monuments are also considered as memorials to historic events, places and heroes and their deeds and contributions to the building of the nation (nhcp.gov.ph/guidelines-on-monuments).

Article IV, Section 16 of the Philippine Constitution states “All the country’s artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate its disposition” (De Leon, 2008). From this legal basis, the NHCP set guidelines and/or directives regarding the conservation, restoration and protection of all the historical movable and immovable objects. This is embedded in the Republic Act 10086.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) listed five World Heritage site in the Philippines. Three of them are classified as cultural heritage. These are the Baroque churches of the Philippines, the Rice Terraces of the Cordillera and the historic town of Vigan (whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/ph).

The Baroque Churches of the Philippines is a serial inscription consists of four Roman Catholic churches constructed between the 16th and the 18th centuries during the Spanish era in the Philippines. They are located in separate areas in the country. Two of them are found in the northern island of Luzon, and one at the heart of Intramuros, Manila, and the other in the central Visayas island of Iloilo (whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/ph).

This group of churches established a style of building and design that was adapted to the physical conditions in the Philippines and had an important influence on later church architecture in the region. The four churches are outstanding examples of the Philippine interpretation of the Baroque style, and represent the fusion of European church design and construction with local materials and decorative motifs to form a new church-building tradition (whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/ph).

Another cultural heritage listed by UNESCO is the City of Vigan. As cited “Established in the 16th century, Vigan is the best-preserved example of a planned Spanish colonial town in Asia. Its architecture reflects the coming together of cultural elements from elsewhere in the Philippines, from China and from Europe, resulting in a culture and townscape that have no parallel anywhere in East and South-East Asia”.


Meanwhile, the Banaue Rice Terraces as cited by UNESCO “The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras is an outstanding example of an evolved, living cultural landscape that can be traced as far back as two millennia ago in the pre-colonial Philippines. The terraces are located in the remote areas of the Philippine Cordillera mountain range on the northern island of Luzon, Philippine archipelago. While the historic terraces cover an extensive area, the inscribed property consists of five clusters of the most intact and impressive terraces, located in four municipalities. They are all the product of the Ifugao ethnic group, a minority community that has occupied these mountains for thousands of years” (whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/ph).

In the study conducted by the UNESCO, it was found-out that the cultural heritage sites in the Asia and the Pacific region are under the threat of either disintegration and/or destruction. It was further discovered that most of these cultural heritage sites rests on private ownership. It therefore suggests the important role of the private individuals in terms of the preservation of these sites. This does not undermine though the role of other institutions in the preservation of the said sites (http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/asia-pacific-heritage-awards).

In response to the above findings, UNESCO proposes for the involvement of both the private and public sectors thus, the collaboration from both entities. The partnership aims for collaboration in order to preserve the cultural heritage of the Asia-Pacific region. The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation was established in 2000 in order to recognize excellent achievements in successful conservation and/or restoration of heritage buildings and properties initiated by the private sector and/or by the public-private initiatives in the region.

Then, in 2005, the UNESCO launched the Jury Commendation for Innovation. The Jury Commendation recognizes newly-built structures which demonstrate outstanding architectural design that is well-integrated into historic contexts (http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/asia-pacific-heritage-awards).

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is embodied in an international treaty called the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

UNESCO’s World Heritage mission is to:
- encourage countries to sign the World Heritage Convention and to ensure the protection of their natural and cultural heritage;
- encourage States Parties to the Convention to nominate sites within their national territory for inclusion on the World Heritage List;
- encourage States Parties to establish management plans and set up reporting systems on the state of conservation of their World Heritage sites;
- help States Parties safeguard World Heritage properties by providing technical assistance and professional training;
- provide emergency assistance for World Heritage sites in immediate danger;
- support States Parties’ public awareness-building activities for World Heritage conservation;
- encourage participation of the local population in the preservation of their cultural and natural heritage;
- encourage international cooperation in the conservation of our world's cultural and natural heritage (http://whc.unesco.org/en/about).

These are but few of the literatures that would justify the need to look into the historical monuments in the City of Legazpi. These monuments serve as historical landmarks. And as historical
landmarks they can aid to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage among the Legazpeños and Albayanos. This in turn may contribute to giving value to humanity.

Materials and Methods
The respondents of the study were the curator of the Legaspi City Museum and two councilors of the City of Legaspi, Philippines specifically the committee chairpersons on education and tourism and culture.

The study made use of the following instruments: Interview Guide, Open-ended questionnaire, Checklist for Documentary Analysis and photo documentation. Said instruments were used to capture the information needed by the study. The information generated from the interview was triangulated with the information from the accomplished open-ended questionnaire, checklist for documentary analysis and the photo documentation. These information were critiqued by an authority in Bicol history.

The historical method for research was likewise employed in the study. Said method was the basis for the development of Session Plans for the primary use of faculty teaching Philippine History in the tertiary level as well as teachers in the Basic Education specifically the grade three Araling Panlipunan (Social Studies) teachers.

Results and Discussion
Identification of Historical Landmarks in the City of Legaspi, Philippines
The birth of the City of Legazpi can be traced back to the existence of barangay called Sawangan which is the present Legazpi Port area. The inhabitants of the said place were mostly farmers and fisher folks. Historical records show that from 1587 to 1616 the people of Legazpi were under the spiritual administration of the Franciscan friars of the Doctrina Cagsawa which is the present Daraga. Then, by virtue of the Royal Decree issued on October 22, 1858 from ancient name of Sawangan, it was changed to Legazpi. The name Legazpi was in honor of the Spanish adelantado, Don Miguel Lopez de Legazpi.

The City of Legazpi was placed under the leadership of Don Lorenzo Tale as its first gobernadorcillo and with Rev. Camilo Abainza as the acting Parish Priest. By virtue of the Becerra Law of 1892 Legazpi became a city. However, it was dissolved into a municipality during the American occupation. Then, on June 18, 1948 its stature as a city was restored by virtue of Republic Act No. 306. The restoration of Legazpi into a city included the Municipality of Daraga which lasted until June 8, 1954 (History of Legazpi City http:www.). Then finally, on June 12, 1959 Legazpi was declared again as a city without the Municipality of Daraga. As a city it is recognize as the capital city of the Province of Albay and the seat of government (History of Legazpi City: BNAA Week: Celebrating Its Roots, 2007).

The City of Legazpi has 9 existing monuments which symbolize the historical roots of its people and its city. These are: the Battle of Legazpi Trylon, the Jose Ignacio Paua Monument, the Legazpi Albay Gulf Landing, the Headless Monument, the Monument of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, the Bust of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, the Penaranda Monument, the Liberty Bell and the Simeon A. Ola Monument.

a. The Battle of Legazpi Trylon Monument
The Battle of Legazpi Trylon is a memorial of the brave women and men of Albay who fought in a combat in defense against the Americans in 1900. Historically, the short lived Philippine independence following the proclamation on June 12, 1898 was threatened with the Benevolent Assimilation Proclamation issued by President William McKinley of the United States (Agoncillo,1990). The collapsed in the diplomatic relations between Pres. Emilio Aguinaldo and the American government prompted Gen. Vito Belarmino of Albay to prepare for the possible arrival of the Americans in the Bicol Region. Possible defenses were done which included the organization of the Cuerpo de Militias Territoriales or the Cuerpo de Sandatahanes. This group of militia was composed of male citizens aged 18 to 45 with a total number of about 25,000. The group regularly assembled on Sundays in the capital of Albay to attend mass and to listen to the patriotic speeches.
delivered by Gen. Vito Belarmino (Gerona, 1988). Gen. Belarmino was the commander of the Philippine Revolutionary Forces in the Bicol Region in 1899 until the early 1900s (Malanyaon, 1991).

There were rumors that circulated in the early months of the 1899 regarding the arrival of the American warships in Albay in order to attack the ports of Legazpi and Tabaco. However, it was only on September 10, 1899 that the first American attack took place. The American warship *Bennington* attacked the coast of Legazpi and the defenders failed to fire back since the ship was beyond the range of the artillery in the Capuntocan (Gerona, 1898).

Series of American expeditions were sent to the Bicol Region which led to the occupation of Sorsogon on January 20, 1900. Then, with the fall of Sorsogon Gen. Belarmino anticipated the next possible target will be Albay. On January 21, the American expedition arrived in Albay along with the English gunship *Plover*. The British government sent the gunship to evacuate the British in the town which the Filipino soldiers refused to surrender due to the belief that Americans will not attack them as long as the British are held captives. Nevertheless, the Americans ignored and continued the attack (Gerona, 1989).

Below is the text of the landmark found at the center of the downtown Legazpi:

![Image of a marker]

In the text on the marker of the monument however printed that it was Colonel Antero Reyes who led a group of Filipino revolutionaries who fought valiantly against the Americans on January 21, 1900. On the other hand, Gerona in his *From Epic to History: A Brief Introduction to Bicol History* claimed that the successful landing of the Americans in the shore of Legazpi claimed the lives of 172 Filipinos and leaving 12 of them injured against the Americans that only 12 were injured and no one died.

More than a century after, in order to recognize the bravery of the early Bikolanos stand a marker, a reminder of the courageous act exhibited by our ancestors.
Below are pictures showing the location of the monument which to date stands as a living reminder of the bravery of the Legazpeños who fought valiantly against the conquerors:

b. The Jose Ignacio Paua Monument

The year 1896 proved to be a challenging year for the Filipinos. In the national context a lot had been written about the struggles of the Filipinos moving towards the declaration of independence from the Spaniards. In the Bikol Region, aside from the Bikolanos there were also Chinese mestizos who were actively involved in the struggle for independence. One of them is Jose Ignacio Paua who was a pureblooded Chinese from Fujian province in China (1998-2006 Tsinoy.com,Inc.)

Historical records show that Jose Ignacio Puaa came to the Philippines at the age of 18 and lived with his uncle in Binondo, Manila. He worked as an apprentice blacksmith which honed his skills in making cannons and weapons. The same skills he developed working in the blacksmith became handy during the revolution particularly in the melting of
metals for the manufacture of bullets and arms. Along with the other Chinese, they took charge of the production of weapons as well as the repairs of old and broken arsenals captured from the Spaniards.

Before he went to Bikol, he joined the revolutionaries in fighting the Spaniards in the battle of Binakayan as well as in Zapote, Perez Dasmarinas, Salitran and Imus. Then, after the proclamation of the Philippine Independence on June 12, 1898, he went to the Bikolandia and helped raised funds for the newly proclaimed republic. He was able to gather 386,000 pesos in Bikol alone. (1998-2006 Tsinoy.com,Inc.)

Among the involvement of Gen. Paua in the revolution is his being one of the signatories in the Pact of Biak-na-Bato. Due to his participation in various skirmishes thus, Emilio Aguinaldo recognized his bravery and granted him the rank of a general on September 26, 1898 (A Chinese in the Philippine Revolution, handouts, Legazpi City Museum).

In recognition of his contributions to the Philippine Revolution particularly in the area of Bicol, a monument was erected in his honor. The monument serves as a living reminder of his courage as well as his dedication to the Philippines even though he is not a Filipino by birth and blood.


c. The Legazpi Albay Gulf Landing Monument

The monument in Barangay Rawis, Legazpi City commemorates the triumphed of the combined Filipino-American troops against the Japanese. The Japanese troops which landed in Legazpi on December 12, 1941 was a part of an impressive naval force known as the Kimura Detachment. The Japanese planes dominated the airspace of Legazpi (Gerona, 1988).

Several decades after the historic Legazpi-Albay Gulf landing stands a monument to honor the bravery exhibited by those who fought. The meaning of the pylon:
The two plate masses tapering upward and leaning on each other represent the joint forces of the Philippine Guerilla Forces (West Plate) and the Allied American Forces (East Plate) that triumphed in the Liberation of the people of Legazpi and Albay from the hands of the Japanese Imperial Forces.

The West Plate represents the Philippine Forces in Legazpi and Albay who had been guarding the land and struggling for freedom even before the coming of the Allied Forces. The East Plate represents the support force that came from the outside- the American Forces that landed from the sea.

The tapering plates pointed upward and standing in a leaning position connotes the cooperation and indispensable partnership between the two merging forces and the strength and triumph that spelled victory.

The top red strip wrapped around the two plates marks the wounded comrades of both forces, now honored as heroes. The bottom black strip wrapped around the two plates speaks for those who fell during the war and whose death will always be remembered and honored for their death played part of the victory in the liberation of the people.

To all our heroes, they will always be remembered and their courage will forever be impressed in the minds of a grateful people as the Legazpi Albay Landings Pylon towers over us- proud and heroic.
d. **The Headless Monument**

The headless monument was built “In memory of the Filipinos who died during the World War II”. The Japanese presence in Legazpi which commenced upon the landing of the Japanese troops in the morning of December 12, 1941 marked another period in the history of Bicol. By 6:00 o’clock in the morning a report was received at the Imperial General Headquarters “Crack units of the Imperial Army in close cooperation with the Imperial navy, effected a successful landing on the southern part of Luzon Island in the Philippines on December 12 at dawn. The new force in collaboration with the composite units that had previously landed in sectors north of Manila has completed the encirclement of Luzon Island” (Gerona, 1988).

The establishment of the Japanese rule in the Philippines brought fear among the people including the Bicolanos. Gerona in his *From Epic to History: A Brief Introduction to Bicol History* narrated the reactions of the residents of Albay during the war, *Since the time they broke the doors and set themselves up as owners of our Motherland, to the time of their defeat, they had indulged in all kinds of cruelty and gory pastimers*.

The atrocities committed by the Japanese ended with the liberation of Bicol upon the landing of the American troops in the port of Legazpi on April 1, 1945. And symbolically the monument represents the countless and nameless Filipinos particularly the Bikolanos who died in exchange of freedom from the Japanese.
e. **The Bust and the Monument of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi**

By virtue of the Royal Decree issued by the Spanish government, Ramon Montero of the Gobierno Superior de las Islas Filipinas, named the town of Albay Viejo (the present Legazpi Port District area) as Legazpi. It was inaugurated on October 22, 1858 in honor of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi. De Legazpi served as the first Spanish Governor and at the same time identified as adelantado of the Philippines from 1565-1572.

Currently, a marker the bust of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi was erected at the compound of the Legazpi City Hall in commemoration of the reconversion of the then Municipality of Legazpi into City of Legazpi. The reconversion took place on June 12, 1959 by virtue of Republic Act No. 2234 signed by President Carlos P. Garcia. The marker bears the name of the incumbent officials of the government during that time. The government officials are as follows:

- President Carlos P. Garcia
- Senator Pedro R. Sabido
- Congressman Justino Nuyda
- Mayor Ramon A. Arnaldo
- Vice-Mayor Claudio A. Apuli
- Councilors:
  - Abundio Acuna
  - Monico Ajero
  - Angeles Barranda
  - Rosario Galang
  - Jose Manuel Onandia
  - Perfecto Padilla
  - Ramon Raneses
  - Jose Jimenez
  - Eduardo Jana

The bust of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi whose the name of the city is being honored was constructed by Salvador Padilla, the City Building Inspector.

Opposite are pictures of the said bust found within the Legazpi City Hall compound.
Meanwhile, under the term of Mayor Geraldine Rosal the monument of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi was constructed at the Legazpi Boulevard near the Bureau of Fire Station of the city.
f. The Peñaranda Monument

One of the historical landmarks within the City of Legazpi is the Peña­randá Park named after the first governor of the Province of Albay, Jose Maria Peña­randá. Gerona pointed­out in Albay Winding Down the Històrico Abaca Trail that very few among the Spanish government officials can be given credit for honest and efficient governance. Among them is Alcalde Mayor Peña­randá. Very few write­ups though were written about him thus, few information is known about him. Among his strings of accomplishments are: (1) the administrative reforms on the elimination of graft and corruption specifically on the collection of obligatory fees and the enforcement of the forced labor or the “polo y servicio”; (2) the improvement of the transport system such as the construction of camino real or the main road leading to the cabeccera as well as the construction of numerous bridges; (3) a mail service was likewise developed connecting Camarines and Tayabas; (4) the construction of court houses and school buildings which endured the tests of time (Gerona, 2011); (5) credit is also due to him for the construction of the Albay Capitol as well as the St. Gregory the Great Cathedral (Dyaryo Bikol, Vol. V. No.16, May 6, 2002); (6) Aside from these, he was also responsible for the layout and designation of the adjoining structures in the Peña­randá Park (Fernandez, Albay’s Peña­randá Park: Then and Now); and (7) massive campaign on attaining peace and order specifically ending the Moro raids (Gerona, 2011).

He came to the Philippines as a full­pledged lieutenant with extensive military training having been chosen by his uncle, Lt. Gen. Pascual Enrile. He was his uncle’s aide­de­camp. He served both as a military engineer and an adjutant thus, explains his accomplishments. He started his career in the Zapadores Regiment of the Spanish army at the age of 15. Similarly, he studied and attended training at the Alcalá de Henares an academy in Spain.

Upon arrival in the Philippines, he was assigned to accompany his uncle to the latter’s numerous trips in Luzon hence, exposing him to the areas inhabited by the bandits. His first exposure however in Bicol was in 1831. This happened when he was assigned to conduct inspections on the coastal warning system, forts and off­shore defenses. This assignment compelled him to go around Camarines and Albay. In the same assignment he was able to identify the defective conditions. And at the same time, he proposed corresponding remedies. In the same travels that he had, he grabbed this as opportunity for himself to be acquainted with the local culture, the economic conditions as well as other concerns that would need immediate attention of the government. The information he acquired became useful when he assumed position as alcalde mayor.

On May 14, 1834 Lt. Gen. Enrile appointed Peña­randá as governor of Albay. The appointment of Penaranda was a response on the socio­political and economic situations in Albay. The province then was a picture of a government whose trustworthiness and leadership of the officials were found unquestionable. These officials were also described to be indifferent and uncaring to the conditions and needs of the people. Similarly, robberies and other crimes were rampant which challenged the peace and order of the province. This was further complicated by the persistent attacks of the Moros. In addition, the infrastructure was far from in good condition. The overall situation in Albay caused the demoralization of the people.

Making use of Peña­randá’s accumulated information due to his previous assignments he assessed again the situations and proposed solutions. For the Moro attacks he suggested to the governor­general to put­up armed vessels in Pasacao, Pantaon, Donsol and other strategic points. He also proposed for signal stations between Sorsogon and Marigondon. He decided that it will help in the defense of Albay if the existing fortifications will be rehabilitated. He believed that by ending the struggle against the Moros then, with concerns in peace and order addressed then, it will be possible to work for long term development.

Moreover, Peña­randá believed in the development of agriculture as asset of the province. He ordered for the diversification of crops specifically abaca, cacao, coffee and coconuts. As a
proof of the positive effects of his decision-making process quoted in Gerona’s Alay Winding Down the Historic Abaca Trail:

“From the town to the embarcadero, to that of Pilar, farther by three leagues of very rugged road with so many large hills and were virtually forested during those times. That said road where no volcanic sands, no stones for lime, could be found, he sketched out, burned the trees, and in that mountain of rock he blazed a trail by means of explosives (bareron de polvora), signaling the beginning of progress. In 1840 when he handed over his administration it is said that he was riding on a carriage on the said road transporting 2,000 piculs of abaca which he gathered from all parts of the Cordillera de Tabaco including those from the capital town. Afterwards, he drew up plans for San Bernardino Strait where ships could easily load up cargo in the wharf of Legaspi. From then on, it began to increase the bandala”.

His accomplishments imply that he is an administrator with a sense of foresight. Some evidences of these are: In 1838 while the province experienced scarcity in rice, he imported from Capiz. This is to address the possible excess in the amount of rice imported from the Camarines. He likewise addressed the bureaucratic concerns side by side with developmental projects. Similarly, beautification projects were done like planting Talisay trees along the roadside. Canals were also constructed not just to facilitate the drainage system but as well as sources of water to put-off fire and for washing.

The efforts exerted by governor Peñaranda ushered Albay into a new epoch of progress. The enhanced defense systems that he developed as well as the overall transformation that he initiated made Albay as one of the progressive provinces during his time. And, the people of Albay will forever be grateful to him thus, a monument is built in his honor.
g. Liberty Bell

In commemoration with the bravery exhibited by the Bikolanos in defense against the Americans during the Second World War which led to victory, the Americans offered a gift— the Liberty Bell. The bell is described by the Americans as a visual reminder of the Liberation of Legazpi against the Japanese troops. The Liberty Bell was given by the American government to the people of Albay through the Philippine Civil Affairs Unit (PCAU) (The Liberty bell, handouts, Legazpi City Museum).

The Liberty Bell is a replica of the American Liberty Bell at the Independence Hall, in Philadelphia, United States. Inscribed in the said historical monument are the following words as America’s message to the people of Albay:

To the People of Albay
We present this
Symbol of your Liberation

April 1, 1945
Individually or collectively
If oppression ever knocks
At your door, feel free
To ring this bell.

Philippine Civil Affairs Unit, Inc. (PCAU)

Historically, the Liberty Bell was only rung once. In 1948, Legazpi was comprised of Legazpi Port, Albay and Daraga headed by mayor-elect Herculano Pareja. Then, in a visit of the then President Elpidio Quirino during his speech he appointed Jose Arboleda as the new City Mayor. Several days after the visit of the President, Herculano Pareja rang the bell as his personal protest. He felt that he was oppressed and a victim of partisan injustice.
h. The Simeon A. Ola Monument

In recognition with the heroism of Simeon Ola, a monument in his honor was built. History recognized him as one of the Filipinos who valiantly fought the Americans during the Filipinos’ struggle for independence. He was born on September 2, 1865 in Guinobatan, Albay. He came from a middle class family with Vicente Ola and Apolonia Arboleda as his parents. He attended the seminary of Nueva Caceres where he took up philosophy. He later quit and later joined the Katipunan under the leadership of Jose Glicerio, an emissary of Andres Bonifacio (Malanyaon, 1991).

He participated actively in the revolution during the Filipino-American War. In recognition to his active participation, he was promoted by Gen. Vito Belarmino, the Commander of the Philippine Revolutionary in the Bikol Region to the rank of Captain. Series of revolutionary activities were launched in the region including Albay. In fact, Gov. Gen. William Howard Taft claimed that “Ola’s insurrection was the worst he had to deal with” (Malanyaon, 1991). Part of the efforts exerted by the American government was the chains of meetings set to confer with Ola. One of them was the meeting with Garwood, Baker and Bandholtz, three assistant chiefs of the American Constabulary.

The Americans even tried to offer Ola with Php 10,000 which made the latter angry thus, the Americans temporarily suspended the war operations for 40 days. Then in November of 1902, Gen. Jesse Garwood met with Ola which was part of the American propaganda. Ola’s group was considered as a force to contend with considering the 1,500 recruits that joined his unit. With the recruits were 24 companies of the Philippine Scouts and Constabulary soldiers (Malanyaon, 1991).

As Gov. Taft’s response he ordered the reconcentration all over Albay. Part of the order was “all persons found out of the restricted area were considered insurgence” (Malanyaon, 1991). The order issued had a negative impact on the economy of Albay particularly in the production of hemp. Eventually, the desperation and the continuous efforts exerted by the American paid off. On September 25, 1903 a group was sent by the Americans to arrange the surrender of Ola. The group was headed by Ola’s cousin Eligio Arboleda. He was joined in by Ramon Santos, Epifanio Orosco and Lt. Pyle who proceeded to Camp Barrio Mapaso, Guinobatan, Albay. Ola claimed to tricked when Gen. Bandholtz denied the terms of the unconditional surrender promised by Ramon Santos. Ola surrendered along with 28 of his men and gave-up 33 guns (Malanyaon, 1991).

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the data gathered, analyzed and interpreted, the following are the findings, conclusion and recommendations:

The City of Legazpi has eight (8) existing monuments symbolizing the historical roots of the people. These are the monuments of the: (1) Battle of Legazpi Trylon, (2) Jose Ignacio Paua, (3) Legazpi-Albay Gulf Landing, (4) the Headless Monument, (5) Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, (6) Penaranda Monument, (7) Liberty Bell and (8) Simeon A. Ola. These monuments are representations either by persons who made significant contributions in the struggles and triumphs of the Legazpeños against the colonizers or depictions of the past events with historical significance. Hence, due to their substantial significance in Legazpi City’s past then, they are considered as historical landmarks. And, as tangible cultural heritage they serve as physical reminders of the rich historical past of both the people and the place- the city of the present Legazpi.

The identified historical landmarks are found within the vicinity of the Legazpi City. The monument of the Battle of Trylon is found in the heart of the downtown Legazpi; While the monument of Jose Ignacio Paua is along Rizal St. at Brgy. 2, Banadero; the monument of the Legazpi-Albay Gulf Landing is located in Brgy. Rawis; the Headless Monument is found in front of the Legazpi City Post Office also at the heart of the downtown. Meanwhile, the bust of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi is located within the compound of the Legazpi City Hall while the monument of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi is found...
along Legazpi Boulevard near the Bureau of Fire Station. On the other hand, the Penaranda Monument occupies a significant location in the Penaranda Park opposite the monument of the Liberty Bell. The Peñaranda Park is located in front of the Albay Provincial Capitol. Lastly, the Simeon A. Ola monument is located at the entrance gate of the Camp Simeon Ola along Rizal St. The identified historical landmarks are located in the center of the City of Legazpi.

The historical narratives include the significant chronological events involving personages, places and events which are deemed important in the past of the City of Legazpi. The chronology of events as captured in narratives are deemed as key instruments for the people of the present Legazpi City to know their roots deeper and better thus, creating an appreciation of what and how to be a Legaspeños.

The eight (8) developed session plans for grade 3- Araling Panlipunan (AP) are reflective of the objectives, the values to be integrated, the themes of the grade 3- AP curriculum and the specific tasks and the processes to be undertaken. The developed session plans are reflective of the narratives of the significant events and people in the history of the City of Legazpi. In like manner, the session plans adhered to the thrusts of the revised Basic Education Curriculum- the K to12 in promoting the teaching of local history.

The study serves as an initial step towards a deeper understanding of the roots of the local history particularly the history of the City of Legazpi. It is then recommended to conduct follow-up studies. Similarly, since in this study secondary sources were basically used as instruments for the gathering of data, the future study may consider the use of primary sources.

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