

The Spanish missionary, so went the story, climbed up the hill north of this region where the old barangay "Kumintang" was situated, to visit Gat Pulintan. This venerable Gat was the brave chieftain and ruler of all the barangays in that region, or in other words, he was the Superior Datu. Fate was rather unkind to the missionary, for at the time of his visit Gat Pulintan was not at home. He was however, welcomed by Princess Kumintang, the daughter of the datu. The missionary was so impressed by the beauty and politeness of the princess and her court that, according to the story, he paid homage to her by kneeling before her and addressed her as Princess Kumintang. Thus for the first time the pride of a Spaniard was vanquished by the beauty and hospitality of a Filipino woman.

The hill, on which the Provincial Capitol now rests, was the barangay of Kumintang. According to Retana, in Morga's *Sucesos delas Filipinas*, this town was founded in 1581. It was christened Batangan because of the numerous big logs that abound there. These logs were commonly called "batang" by the people of the barangay. After the founding (not official) the first chapel was built and the settlement became more populated.

So Batangas^{as}, became the name of the settlement or barangay of Kumintang. At this period this name was not yet official. It was a settlement within the encomienda owned by Marshall Goiti, who was rewarded by the king for his services to the Spanish government. It took the Spanish government almost 20 years to reorganize the Filipino government. It was only in 1601 that the settlement of Batangas^{as} really became a town. Don Antonio Casulae was appointed its first gobernadorcillo and since then Batangan became the official name of our town.

As to the fate of Gat Pulintan and his daughter not much could be gleaned. The brave chieftain and his family did not follow the footsteps of other datos who accepted Spanish sovereignty and Christianity readily. Like Lapulapu he abhorred foreign domination so he and his men sought the hills as their only refuge. There they died a glorious death.

The pueblo of Batangas had for its head the gobernadorcillo. As was previously stated Don Agustin Casulae was its first gobernadorcillo. Being the first, he was appointed instead of being elected. The succeeding