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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

## RESEARCH OUTLINE

# Philippines

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## INTRODUCTION

This outline can help you find information about people who lived in the Philippines. It gives information about records of genealogical value for the Philippines and helps you decide which types of records to search.

## HELPS FOR USING THIS RESEARCH OUTLINE

Before using this outline you need to choose the information you would like to learn about one of your ancestors, such as a birth date or a maiden name.

After you have decided what information you want to find, look at the “Record Selection Table” in this outline. The table lists the kinds of information you

may want and the best types of records for finding that information.

There is a section in the outline for each type of record listed in columns 2 and 3 of the “Record Selection Table.” The sections give more information about these records and how to find them. The sections are in alphabetical order.

### References to the Family History Library Catalog

The Family History Library Catalog is a listing of all the records available at the Family History Library. The catalog is available at the Family History Library and at each Family History Center. Staff at these places can help you learn to use the catalog.

This outline gives instructions for finding information in the catalog. For example, in the section of this outline called “Census” you may find the following statement:

For more information about census records, look in the “Locality Search” of the Family History Library Catalog under:

PHILIPPINES - CENSUS  
PHILIPPINES, [PROVINCE] - CENSUS  
PHILIPPINES, [PROVINCE], [MUNICIPALITY OR

The above statement tells you to look in the catalog under:

- Philippines and then the subject CENSUS.
- A province in the Philippines and then the subject CENSUS.
- A municipality or barrio in a province in the Philippines and then the subject CENSUS.

This outline includes many references to specific records. The references include call numbers and computer numbers and are listed in parenthesis.

- *Call Numbers*. The call number is used to find a record in the Family History Library collection.

- *Computer Numbers*. Each record is assigned a number to identify it in the catalog. If you are using the Family History Library Catalog on computer or compact disc, you can search for the record by the computer number. This is the quickest way to find the listing of the record in the catalog.

For additional information on using the catalog see *Using the Family History Library Catalog* (30966)

### **References to Other Family History Library Publications**

The Family History Library has many other publications that may be helpful to you in your research. Some are referred to in this outline. Their titles are in italics and their item numbers are in parentheses. They are available at the Family History Library and the Salt Lake Distribution Center.

## RECORD SELECTION TABLE: PHILIPPINES

This table can help you decide which records to search. It is most helpful for research from 1800 to the present.

Step 1. Choose an ancestor you would like to know more about. Decide what new information you would like to learn about that person. This new information is your research goal.

Step 2. In column 1 of this table, find the goal you selected.

Step 3. In column 2 of this table, find the types of records most likely to have the information you need, then read the sections in this outline about those types of records.

Step 4. Look in the Family History Library Catalog and choose a specific record to search.

Step 5. Look at the record.

Step 6. If you do not find the information you need, return to column 3 and search those record types.

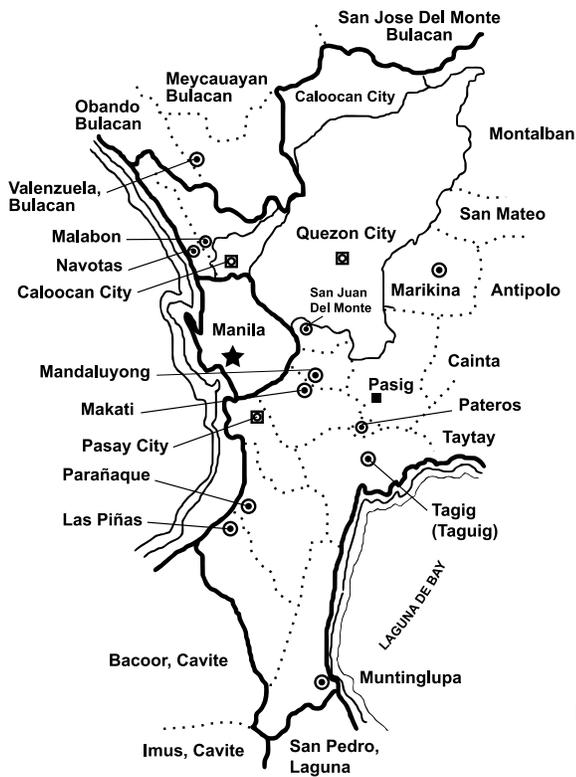
Note: Records of previous research (Genealogy, Biography, History, Periodicals, and Societies) are useful for most goals, but they are not listed unless they are *especially* helpful.

1. If You Need	2. Look First In	3. Then Search
Age	Civil Registration, Church Records	Census, Public Records, Military Records
Birth date	Civil Registration, Church Records	Census, Military Records
Birthplace	Civil Registration, Church Records	Census, Public Records
Country of foreign birth	Emigration and Immigration, Naturalization and Citizenship	Military Records
County origins and boundaries	Atlases	Maps, Gazetteers
Death	Civil Registration, Church Records	Cemeteries, Probate Records, Funeral Homes
Divorce	Civil Registration*	
Ethnic background	Minorities	
Historical background	History	
Immigration date	Emigration and Immigration	
Living relatives and guardianships	Directories	Orphans and Orphanages
Maiden name	Civil Registration, Church Records	Schools, Medical Records
Marriage	Civil Registration, Church Records	Public Records
Occupation	Public Records	Census
Parents, children, and family members	Civil Registration, Church Records	
Physical description	Medical Records, Biography	Military Records
Place-finding aids	Atlases, Gazetteers	History, Maps
Places of residence	Directories	Public Records, including cedula or residence certificates
Religion	Civil Registration	Public Records
Social activities	Newspapers, Societies	Public Records

\* Because divorce is not legal in the Philippines, there are no divorce records. See the "Court Records" section of this outline concerning annulments and legal separations. Also, look for records in other countries where divorce is legal.

# Map of the Philippines

Metropolitan Manila, 1976



- Capital of the Philippines ★
- City.....☐
- Provincial Capital.....■
- Municipality.....⊙
- Municipal Boundary .....⋯
- Provincial Boundary .....—
- City Boundary.....—



## RECORDS AT THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

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### Microform Records

The Family History Library currently has a large collection of microfilm about Philippine peoples, and it is continually acquiring new ones. The library has microfilmed records from government and church archives, including:

- Birth, marriage, and death records from churches and civil offices.
- Census records.
- Military records.
- Notarial records.

The library has filmed almost all Philippine civil records, both modern and those created during the Spanish administration. It also has an extensive collection of church records from various Philippine provinces.

### Printed Records

The library has very few printed records. Some censuses, church directories, yearbooks, statistics, and other records are available.

### Computer Records

At the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and in many Family History Centers in the United States and Canada, FamilySearch™ is available. This computer program has many computer files of genealogical information. See the “Genealogy” genealogy section of this research outline for information about the following files: International Genealogical Index, and Ancestral File.

## THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

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The key to finding a record at the Family History Library is the Family History Library Catalog. The catalog describes each of the library's records and provides a call number. The call number helps those working in the Family History Library find the record quickly when you order it. Copies of the catalog are at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, and are also on microfiche at each Family History Center. The catalog is divided into four sections:

- Locality
- Subject
- Surname
- Author/Title

When you find in this outline the record type you need, look for that type of record (such as Church Records) in the Locality section. You will usually use the Locality section to find call numbers of records you need.

In the Philippine section of the catalog, the headings are in English.

In the catalog, some records, such as national records, are listed under PHILIPPINES. Other records may be listed under a PROVINCE, MUNICIPALITY, or BARRIO (a barrio is smaller locality within a municipality that could be a town, village, or community). For example, in the Locality section look for:

1. The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:

**PHILIPPINES** (country)  
**PHILIPPINES, BULACAN** (province)  
**PHILIPPINES, BULACAN, MALOLOS** (municipality)  
**PHILIPPINES, BULACAN, MALOLOS, BARASOAIN** (barrio)

2. Then the *record type* or *topic* you want, such as:

PHILIPPINES - **CIVIL REGISTRATION**  
PHILIPPINES, BULACAN - **CIVIL REGISTRATION**  
PHILIPPINES, BULACAN, MALOLOS - **CHURCH RECORDS**  
PHILIPPINES, BULACAN, MALOLOS, BARASOAIN - **CHURCH RECORDS**

This outline gives call numbers for some records. These numbers are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for Family History Library. Sometimes this outline lists only the number of films in a collection or the first and last film numbers (if the numbers are in order). These numbers may be used to look up the record in the Family History Library Catalog and find the specific film you need.

If you need more help using the catalog, Family History Center staff can assist you in reviewing a short video and written instructions.

## ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

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This section describes repositories other than the Family History Library that can help you in your research. The Family History Library has copies of many but not all of the records at these archives.

*Archives* collect and preserve original documents of organizations such as churches or governments. *Libraries* generally collect published sources such

as books, maps, and microfilm. When you need the address of a library or archive, return to this section.

Before you visit, contact the archive or library. Ask about their collection, hours, services, and fees. Send a well-worded letter of introduction and intent. This will increase your chances to use the records.

## Libraries in the Philippines

*The National Census and Statistics Office (NCSO).* The National Census and Statistics Office has the major civil records after 1932 and is currently responsible for all civil registration. Unfortunately, most documents from 1932 to 1945 were destroyed in World War II. Prior to 1974 the office was known as the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

Most vital records should be available at the Family History Library and Family History Centers. The microfilmed records include birth certificates, death certificates, marriage contracts, and notarial records.

Employees of the Philippine National Census and Statistics Office will answer questions. Send family history inquiries to:

Vital Registry Division, Office of the Civil Registrar-General  
National Census and Statistics Office, NEDA Magsaysay Boulevard  
Santa Mesa, Manila  
Metropolitan Manila, Philippines

*Tanggapan Sa Pamamahala Ng Mga Kasulatan At Sinupan* (Records Management and Archives Office). The Archive Division of the Records Management and Archives Office (Bureau of Records Management) has approximately 11,000,000 documents from the Spanish colonization period (1552–1898) and a few records from the American occupation period (1898–1946). Unfortunately, thousands of documents have been lost due to careless handling, deliberate destruction, and natural deterioration caused by termites, mold, and moisture.

The Family History Library has filmed the most important genealogical records from this collection, including:

- Cemetery records (*cementerios*).
- Inheritance records and inventories of personal estates (*bienes de difuntos*).
- Marriage records (*matrimonios*).
- Census records (*vecindarios, estadísticas, padrones de chinos*).

- Military records (*quintas, guardia civil, hojas de servicio*).
- Immigration and naturalization records (*naturalización de Españoles, radicación de extranjeros*).
- Notarial records (*protocolos*).

For more information on these records, see the section of this outline for each record type.

The Archive Division of the Records Management and Archives Office is in the Philippine National Library Building. Send inquiries to:

Archive Division of the R.M. & A.O.  
Philippine National Library  
T. M. Kalaw Street  
Ermita, Manila 2801  
Metropolitan Manila, Philippines

The Philippine National Library has a valuable 45,000-volume Filipiniana collection of biographies, local histories, bibliographies, and gazetteers. It also has collections of rare books and manuscripts, newspapers and brochures, and microforms. The atlases, maps, gazetteers, and manuscripts of the rare books collection are listed in:

Medina, Isagani R., ed. *Filipiniana Materials in the National Library*. Quezon City: Published jointly by the National Library and the University of the Philippines Press, 1971.

The Filipiniana collection at the University of the Philippines Library is also helpful. See:

*Filipiniana 1968: A Classified Catalog of Filipino Books and Pamphlets in the University of the Philippines Library as of January 1, 1968*. Diliman, Rizal: the University of the Philippines, 1968.

*Other Libraries.* A listing of museums and libraries in the Philippines that have Internet sites can be found at:

[www.filipinolinks.com/entertainment/museum.html](http://www.filipinolinks.com/entertainment/museum.html)

The following libraries shelve Filipiniana collections:

- The Ayala Museum Library has over 3,500 rare books and manuscripts:  
  
Ayala Museum Library and Iconographic Archives  
Makati Avenue

Makati, Manila  
Metropolitan Manila, Philippines  
Internet: [www.asiaonline.net.ph/ayalamuseum/default.htm](http://www.asiaonline.net.ph/ayalamuseum/default.htm)

- The Jorge B. Vargas Filipino Collection houses Vargas's personal collection of rare books, documents, and manuscripts:

Jorge B. Vargas Filipiniana Foundation  
241 Shaw Boulevard  
Mandaluyong, Manila  
Metropolitan Manila, Philippines  
Internet: [www.dilnet.upd.edu.ph/~vargas/index.html](http://www.dilnet.upd.edu.ph/~vargas/index.html)

- The Fr. Luis G. Merino Library has rare holdings from 1700 on, Philippine history, architecture, cultural arts, and the restoration of the historic walled City of Intramuros.

The Fr. Luis G. Merino Library  
5/F Palacio del Gobernador Bldg.  
Gen. Luna St., Intramuros  
Manila, Metropolitan Manila, Philippines

The following collection includes mostly documents from the American occupation period, with some records from the Spanish colonization period, and a few modern records:

U.S. Embassy, American Historical Collection  
Ateneo de Manila University  
Quezon City, Metropolitan Manila  
Philippines  
Tel: (632) 924-4601, ext. 2668  
Fax: (632) 924-4428  
Internet: [www.usia.gov/abtusia/posts/RP1/www3002.html](http://www.usia.gov/abtusia/posts/RP1/www3002.html)

Many important libraries are listed in:

Dayrit, Marina. *Directory of Libraries in the Philippines*. Diliman, Quezon City: The University of the Philippines Library, 1973.

Besides the libraries listed above, each province has a library that stores valuable local histories. Some municipalities and cities have libraries that collect local family histories and other important genealogical records. Also, each municipality has a local civil registrar office that keeps valuable family history information. The local civil registrar logs all civil registration events (see the "Civil Registration" section of this outline).

*Church Archives*. See the "Church Records" section of this outline.

## Foreign Libraries

*The U.S. Library of Congress*. The U.S. Library of Congress has a large Filipiniana collection. It has the most comprehensive foreign bibliography on the Philippines (about 18,000 entries) in the Orientalia Division of its:

*Southeast Asia Subject Catalog*. Boston, G.K. Hall, 1972. 6 vol. Vol. 4: The Philippines.

Library of Congress  
1st–2nd Streets, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20504  
Internet: [www.locweb.loc.gov/](http://www.locweb.loc.gov/)

*The Newberry Library*. Chicago's Newberry Library has the most valuable foreign collection of documents from the Spanish colonization period. You can contact the library at:

Newberry Library  
60 West Walton Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60610-3394  
Internet: [www.newberry.org/](http://www.newberry.org/)

The above collection is described in:

Newberry Library. Chicago. *Dictionary Catalog of the Edward E. Ayer Collection of Americana and American Indians in the Newberry Library*. vol. 6, pp. 5,895–99,964. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1961.

Welsh, Doris V. *Catalog of Printed Materials Relating to the Philippine Islands, 1519–1900, in the Newberry Library*. Chicago: Newberry Library, 1959.

Lietz, Paul S., ed. *Calendar of Philippine Documents in the Ayer Collection of the Newberry Library*. Chicago: Newberry Library, 1956. (FHL book 959.9 A3c; film 0795964 item 4; computer number 0186549.)

## Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers.
- Post queries.
- Send and receive e-mail.
- Search large databases.
- Search computer libraries.
- Join in computer chat sessions.

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from the Philippines in many sources at local, provincial, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most information is available at no cost.

Some information and guides are available on the Internet for research in the Philippines. Sites that include information about libraries and museums, maps, and naming customs are found in various sections of this outline.

General sites that act as indexes to many interesting Philippines genealogical sites on the Internet include:

- Philippines Genealogy Web Project:  
[www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/9121/](http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/9121/)
- Family History Library home page:  
[www.familysearch.org/](http://www.familysearch.org/)

## **BIOGRAPHY**

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A biography is a history of a person's life. In it you may find:

- Birth information.
- Marriage information.
- Death information.
- Names of parents, children, or other family members.
- Family traditions and stories.
- Clues about an ancestor's place of origin.
- Places lived.
- Church membership.
- Military service.
- Community activities.

Some information may be inaccurate, so use it carefully.

Many brief biographical sketches have been collected and published in compiled biographies, sometimes called biographical encyclopedias. These collections most often include biographies of early patriots and prominent or well-known citizens of a particular province or municipality. Others feature biographies of scientists, writers, artists, or people of other occupations. Collections of biographies at the Family History Library are generally listed in the Family History Library Catalog, Locality section, under one of the following:

PHILIPPINES - BIOGRAPHY  
PHILIPPINES, (PROVINCE) - BIOGRAPHY

PHILIPPINES, (PROVINCE),  
(MUNICIPALITY) - BIOGRAPHY  
PHILIPPINES, (PROVINCE), (BARRIO) -  
BIOGRAPHY

The following is a well-known biographical encyclopedia:

Retana y Gamboa, Wenceslao Emilio. *Indice de personas nobles y otras de calidad que han estado en Filipinas desde 1521 hasta 1898* (Index of Noble Persons and Other People of Standing Who Have Been in the Philippines from 1521 to 1898). Madrid: Librería de Victoriano Suarez, 1921. (FHL book 959.9 D32r; film 962157 item 1 or film 1329150 item 8; computer number 0187149.) This is an index of noblemen and others of note who inhabited the Philippines from 1521 to 1898.

*National and Regional Sources.* Most major libraries have good collections and indexes of national and regional compiled biographies. They also have bibliographies such as:

Manuel, E. Arsenio. *Dictionary of Philippine Biography*. Quezon City: Filipiniana Publications; vol 1, 1955, vol. 2, 1970. This is a well-documented list with an author/subject index.

Doeppers, Daniel F. *A Union Catalog of Philippine Biographical Reference Works*. Madison, Wis: Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1983. Bibliographic Series, no. 8. (FHL book 959.9 A3d; computer number 0424614.)

Zaide, Gregorio F. *Great Filipinos in History: An Epic of Filipino Greatness in War and Peace*. Manila: Verde Book Store, 1970. (FHL book 959.9 D3z; computer number 0273350.)

Villaruel, Hector K., et al. *Eminent Filipinos*. Manila, Quezon City: Philippine Textbook Publishers, 1965. (FHL book 959.9 D3e; film 795656 item 3; computer number 0115412.) This work lists biographies of eminent Filipinos.

*Local Sources.* Collections of biographies about residents of a municipality or province are usually most helpful for your family history research. The information in these biographies may not be available in any other source. The local library and historical society usually collects biographies and histories about its residents, such as:

Medina, Isagani R. *The Province of Cavite, 1570–1898: An Annotated Bio-bibliography*. Diliman, Quezon City: The University of the Philippines, 1957. This work has 804 entries from 1570 to 1970.

Rivera Castillet, Edvigio de. *Cagayan Province and Her People*. Manila: N.p. 1960. (FHL book 959.91 E3r; film 0795964 item 4; computer number 0199056.) This work has biographies of residents of Cagayan province.

See the “History” section of this outline for further information on local histories.

## **CEMETERIES**

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Several types of cemetery records exist. Sextons, priests, or caretakers of cemeteries generally keep records of the names and dates of those buried and exhumed, and they may also have maps of the burial plots. There may be tombstones in the cemetery, and the information on them may have been transcribed.

Cemetery records often include birth, marriage, and death information. They sometimes provide clues about military service or religion. These records are helpful for identifying children who died young or women who were not recorded in family or government documents. Because relatives may be buried in adjoining plots, you may want to best to visit the cemetery and examine the records and tombstones personally, if possible.

There is, however, a good chance your ancestor’s remains are not in their original burial place. Exhumations are very common in the Philippines. Plots may be exhumed because of prolonged flooding of the cemetery, foreclosure on an unpaid plot, urban development of graveyards, or severe crowding in existing cemeteries. Poverty and war in the Philippines have left many buried in pauper’s graves or in hastily dug mass graves.

### **Locating Cemeteries and Cemetery Records**

To find tombstone or sexton records, you need to know where a person was buried. There are community, church, private, military, and family cemeteries. Most burials are near the place where the person lived or died or where other family members were buried. You can find clues to burial places in funeral notices, obituaries, church records, and death certificates.

Most recorded pre-twentieth century burials and exhumations were sanctioned and performed by the Catholic Church. The Family History Library has a

modest collection of cemetery and exhumation records (*cementerios, exhumaciones*) from the Spanish colonization. These records are in the Locality section of the Family History Library Catalog. Look for exhumation records under “Church Records” and cemetery records under “Cemeteries”:

PHILIPPINES - CEMETERIES  
PHILIPPINES, METROPOLITAN MANILA  
- CEMETERIES  
PHILIPPINES - CHURCH RECORDS  
PHILIPPINES, METROPOLITAN MANILA  
- CHURCH RECORDS

## **CENSUS**

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A census is a count and description of the population of a country, territory, province, or municipality. Census lists are also called schedules or enumerations.

Although Philippine censuses have not yet been indexed, you can still find excellent information, particularly in more recent censuses. Use the information with caution, however. Information may have been given by any family member or neighbor, and some may have been deliberately falsified.

Many early civil censuses were little more than a head count, often conducted by the local parish priest. They were for the sole purpose of determining the number of people subject to paying tribute taxes to the Spanish crown. Later censuses were generally more detailed, and included some valuable genealogical information.

Beginning in the late 1500s, the Spaniards took various censuses known as *vecindarios* (local censuses), *padrón de almas* (head census), or *estado de almas* (people status). The latter two were religious censuses conducted by parish clergy. Because they served both church and government purposes and are similar to the secular censuses, they are described here, rather than in the “Church Records” section of this outline. Most Spanish census records are from 1800 to 1898 and cover the Luzon and Central Visayas regions. You will typically find:

- Names.
- Ages.
- Marital status.
- Tribute status.
- Profession.
- Miscellaneous observations.

This information may be in columnar or narrative format. The church census records (*estado de almas* and *padrón de almas*) are more likely to be in a narrative form and generally give slightly more information than the government records.

The Family History Library has filmed most Spanish civil census records and many religious enumerations. To find the *estado de almas* and *padrón de almas*, look in the Family History Library Catalog, Locality section, under “Church Records”:

#### PHILIPPINES, LAGUNA, MAJAYJAY - CHURCH RECORDS

*Vecindarios* are censuses of all the inhabitants of a particular locality and can be found in the Family History Library Catalog, Locality section, under “Census Records.”:

#### PHILIPPINES, METROPOLITAN MANILA - CENSUS RECORDS

The National Archives (Records Management and Archives Office) in Manila has 517 bundles of *vecindarios* and *estadísticas* (census statistics) from various provinces. However, the *estadísticas* give only statistics.

### Searching Census Records

When searching census records, remember the following:

- Accept the ages with caution.
- Given names may not always be the same as the name recorded in vital records.
- Information may be falsified.
- Name-spelling may vary.
- Place-names may be misspelled or spelled phonetically.
- If a family is not at a suspected address, search the surrounding area.
- Some parts of the records may be difficult or impossible to read.
- When you find your family in one census, be sure to search that same location in the earlier and later census records for additional family members.

## CHURCH RECORDS

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While each church has its own policies on record keeping, most churches keep records of:

- Baptisms.
- Christenings.
- Confirmations.

- Marriages.
- Burials.
- Memberships.
- Admissions.
- Removals.

Some keep minutes of church meetings and the histories of their local churches.

Church records are very important for family research. Civil authorities did not consistently register vital events in the Philippines until the nineteenth century. Church records, on the other hand, were well kept from 1569 (in accordance with the directives of the Council of Trent), with some records dating even earlier. They are generally an excellent source—and many times the only source—of names, dates, and places of births, marriages, and deaths.

### History of Philippine Churches

One of Spain’s objectives in colonizing the Philippines was to establish the Catholic religion among the Filipinos. Therefore, missionaries were among the first Spanish colonizers (1565), and the Catholic faith was the state religion for the next three centuries. In early history there was no separation of church and state in the Philippines, and in most cases local parish priests played the dual role of civil official and ecclesiastical leader. Not until the end of the Spanish administration (1898) was there a true separation of church and state and only then were other religions permitted. For more information on church history in the Philippines, see:

Anderson, Gerald A., ed. *Studies in Philippine Church History*. Ithaca, N. Y.: Cornell University Press, 1969. (FHL book 959.9 K2s; computer number 0145619.)

Elwood, Douglas J. *Churches and Sects in the Philippines: A Descriptive Study of Contemporary Religious Group Movements*. Dumaguete City, Philippines: Silliman University, 1968, c1967. (FHL book 959.9 K2e; computer number 0164820.)

Von Oeyen, Robert J., Jr. *Philippine Evangelical Protestant and Independent Catholic Churches: An Historical Bibliography of Church Records, Publications and Source Material Located in the Greater Manila Area*. Quezon City: Asian Center, University of the Philippines, 1970. (FHL book 959.91 K23vo; computer number 0198762.)

### Catholic Church Records

The Roman Catholic Church remains the largest church in the Philippines, with 85 percent of the population belonging to it. During its 400-year history in the Philippines, the Catholic Church created many useful genealogical records. Most church records in the Philippines are Catholic. In this outline, *church records* refer to Catholic Church records unless otherwise stated.

Each parish has kept records of Catholic inhabitants. Typically, these are records of:

- Christening or baptism (*bautismos*).
- Confirmations (*confirmaciones*).
- Marriages (*casamientos* or *matrimonios*).
- Parish enumerations (*padrón de almas* or *estado de almas*).

You may expect to find the following information in each:

#### *Baptism Records*

- Place and date of baptism
- Name
- Age
- Sex
- Legitimacy
- Names of parents, godparents, and sometimes grandparents

#### *Confirmation Records*

- Place and date of confirmation
- Name
- Sex
- Names of parents, godparents, and sometimes grand parents

#### *Marriage Records*

- Place and date of marriage
- Name and sex of those married
- Names of parents and grandparents
- Names of godparents

#### *Enumerations (Census)*

- Place and date of census
- Sex and name of those counted
- Age at census count

#### *Death Records*

- Place and date of death
- Sex
- Name
- Age at time of death
- Cause of death

- Name of spouse
- Names of surviving children
- Names of parents (sometimes)

The Family History Library has filmed many Catholic Church records. Look in the Family History Library Catalog, Locality section, under:

PHILIPPINES, (PROVINCE),  
(MUNICIPALITY) - CHURCH RECORDS

Although Philippine parish records are one of the most valuable sources, they are not 100 percent accurate. Double-check the record, cross-reference it with other records, and carefully interpret the data.

To search Catholic records, you must know where your ancestor resided. The boundaries for civil and religious jurisdictions are often the same. Therefore, gazetteers and atlases can help you determine religious boundaries so you can select the parishes most likely to have the records you need. The most valuable reference for finding your ancestor's parish is:

#### *Catholic Directory of the Philippines (CDP).*

Manila: Catholic Trade Inc., 1981. (FHL book 959.9 K24c; fiche 6072402; computer number 0140001.) This directory has a complete list of archdioceses, dioceses, vicariates, prelatures, and parishes in the Philippines. It also gives each organization's founding date.

Each archdiocese and many dioceses have archives that store administrative documents, church business records, personnel records, and sacramental records (such as baptism, matrimony, and confirmation). Some of these archives have indexes, which are excellent guides to research, such as:

Ferraris, Maria Rita, R. V. M. *Archives of the Archdiocese of Manila: A Summary Inventory.* Manila: Archives of the Archdiocese, 1981. (FHL book 959.9 A1 no. 3; computer number 0162071.)

### **General Strategy for Searching Parish Registers**

The following suggestions may help you search parish registers:

- Search records from the parish where your ancestor lived.
- If you do not find the records in a parish, search parishes in the immediate vicinity

(approximately a 20-kilometer radius). See the *Catholic Directory of the Philippines* (above) for parishes and the names of their parish priests. Think about the things that influenced your ancestor's place of residence, such as occupation, race, or geography.

- Note the founding date of the parish you are searching. If the date is after your ancestor would be recorded, search records of the parent parish. See the *Catholic Directory of the Philippines*. If your ancestor lived before the beginning date of the church records, the older parish may be far from the new one.
- If you cannot find records at a parish, they may have been sent to the diocese. Find the diocese in the *Catholic Directory of the Philippines*. Your ancestor's records may have been sent to another municipality or province to protect them during a war. A thorough knowledge of the local history is critical to your family research.
- Evaluate the information about godparents. Their home in another town may lead to the family's place of origin. Their names and relationships may provide clues to previous generations.

If the parish records you need are not listed in the Family History Library Catalog and you cannot visit the parish archives, then you may want to write to the parish priest for copies of your ancestor's records. Be sure your requests are reasonable and politely stated, and be sure to send a money order covering the costs of copying, postage, and other expenses.

Philippine Catholic Church records have the following advantages. They:

- Have very few errors compared to other types of records.
- Cover a large percentage of the population.
- Give accurate dates and places of christening, marriage, and burial.
- Give names of parents, spouses, and godparents (who are often relatives).

Philippine Catholic Church registers have these disadvantages. They:

- Are usually not indexed.
- Must be searched *chronologically* by place.
- May have various languages in one record.
- Are handwritten and often difficult to read.

Most Philippine parish registers are in Spanish. For excellent help in understanding the style, format, and contents of these Spanish-language documents, see:

Ryskamp, George R. *Tracing Your Hispanic Heritage*. Riverside, Calif.: Hispanic Family Research, 1984. (FHL book 946 D27r; computer number 0256085.)

*Spanish Records Extraction: An Instruction Guide*. Salt Lake City, Utah: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1981. (FHL book 980 D27s; fiche 6089702; computer number 0254664.)

## Records at the Family History Library

The Family History Library has many church records on microfilm. Look for them in the Family History Library Catalog, Locality section, under:

PHILIPPINES, (PROVINCE),  
MUNICIPALITY/CITY) - CHURCH  
RECORDS  
PHILIPPINES, (PROVINCE),  
(MUNICIPALITY/CITY), (BARRIO) -  
CHURCH RECORDS

## CIVIL REGISTRATION

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Civil governments created records of births, marriages, and deaths. Sometimes called vital records, they refer to critical events in a person's life. These are the most important documents for genealogical research, but they are not complete. Because of geographic distances, inefficient governments, or incomplete civil registrations, many people's births, marriages, and deaths were never recorded by the civil authorities.

This section describes the vital records kept by the civil government. However, the Catholic Church has a long history of participation in civil matters in the Philippines, and many vital events are recorded only in church records. For pre-twentieth-century events, and even some more recent ones, see the "Church Records" section of this outline.

The Family History Library has microfilmed all twentieth-century civil vital records in the National Census and Statistics Office up to 1988. See the Family History Library Catalog, Locality section, under:

PHILIPPINES, (PROVINCE) - CIVIL  
REGISTRATION.

The library also has filmed local civil registry records. These records are often indexed and cover from about 1900 to 1990. You can find local records in the Family History Library Catalog, Locality section, under the city or place-name.

To find a civil record, you will need at least the approximate year and place in which the birth, marriage, divorce, or death occurred. To find clues about these events, you may need to search:

- Family Bibles
- Genealogies
- Local histories
- Biographies
- Cemetery records
- Censuses
- Pension files
- Newspaper notices
- Probate files

These records must sometimes substitute for civil vital records (which were not always kept before 1950). However, these records may not be as accurate as church and civil records.

## General Historical Background

Until 1889 there was no central civil administration to collect, interpret, and preserve the civil registration records. Most vital records from before 1889 are in Catholic parish and diocesan archives.

In 1889, however, the Spanish government created the Central Office of Statistics (*Central Estadística*). This subdivision of the Bureau of Civil Administration (*Dirección General de Administración Civil*) required each parish priest to periodically give the government a detailed list of the births, marriages, and deaths in his area. Although the Catholic clergy had previously maintained such records and even occasionally submitted them to the government, this was the first time that they had been required to regularly submit detailed reports. This system continued until the end of the Spanish administration in 1898.

After the Philippine Revolution of 1898, the church and state became separate. Within the first few years, officials responsible for civil registration were appointed in each municipality. In 1922 the Civil Records Centralization Act required "all municipal secretaries to submit quarterly reports on all registration matters to the Chief of the Division of Archives." The Family History Library has filmed some of these records. In 1930 civil registration became mandatory and in 1932 the Bureau of Census and Statistics was created to oversee all civil registration in the Philippines. It

was not until 1940 that most registrations began to be recorded.

Unfortunately, most twentieth-century civil vital records in the Bureau of Census and Statistics were destroyed during World War II. In 1974 the Bureau of Census and Statistics changed to its current name, the National Census and Statistics Office. Most records in this office are in English, but some are in regional dialects.

## Information Recorded in Civil Registers

### *Birth Records*

Birth records generally give the:

- Child's name.
- Child's sex.
- Child's birth date.
- Child's birthplace.
- Child's legitimacy.
- Mother's name and usual residence.
- Father's name, religion, nationality, race, and occupation.
- Parents' marriage date and place of marriage (city, municipality, and province).

Late registrations (beyond 30 days after the fact) are recorded in red ink. If the registration is over six months late, additional documents testifying to the validity of the parentage and legitimacy of the child will be included with the birth certificate. The additional documents may be:

- Photographs.
- Baptismal certificates.
- Local civil registrar reports.
- Third-person affidavits.
- Police investigation reports.

Registration almost always took place where the birth occurred.

### *Marriage Records*

When a couple marries, the marriage is recorded in four documents:

- Marriage contract
- Marriage license
- Application for a marriage license
- Marriage certificate

Only the marriage contract is forwarded to the National Census and Statistics Office. The other three remain in the office of the local civil registrar, although the couple may be given a copy of their marriage certificate. The contract is the vital record

and is of most value to the researcher. The other three records, though they have much of the same information, may provide other valuable clues to the discerning genealogist.

The marriage contract gives the following information for both parties:

- Names
- Ages
- Nationalities
- Residences
- Premarital status (single, widowed, annulled, and so forth)
- Parents' names and nationalities
- Place of marriage
- Date of marriage
- Witnesses' names
- Name of the official who married the couple

### **Annulments, Legal Separations, and Divorces**

Divorce is not legal in the Philippines, but some records of annulment and legal separation are kept in the National Census and Statistics Office and in the local Domestic Relations Court of First Instance. If you know your ancestor's religion, also check the church archives of that region. Divorce records may be found in other countries where a person may have gone to get a divorce, such as the United States.

### **Death Records**

Death records usually include the following information about the deceased:

- Name
- Place of death
- Full name of the hospital or institution (if death occurred there)
- Date of death
- Cause of death
- Usual residence
- Sex
- Race
- Occupation
- Birthplace
- Birth date
- Citizenship
- Parents' names (including mother's maiden name)
- Surviving spouse's name and address (if any)

For further information on civil registration practices and procedures, see:

*Manual of Civil Registration*. Manila: National Economic and Development Authority, National Census and Statistics Office, Office of the Civil Registrar General, 1975. (FHL book 959.9 N2P; fiche 6072405; computer number 0168769.)

See the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline for the address of the Vital Registry Division of the National Census and Statistics Office. You can find more information about vital records in the Philippines at the following Internet address:

[www.census.gov.ph/data/civil/reg/index.html](http://www.census.gov.ph/data/civil/reg/index.html)

Or you can order information directly from:

The Civil Registrar General  
National Statistics Office  
P.O. Box 779  
Manila, Metropolitan Manila  
Philippines

### **Records at the Family History Library**

The Family History Library has filmed most civil registration records for the Philippines to 1988. Look for them in the Family History Library Catalog, Locality section, under the province or city in which your ancestor lived:

PHILIPPINES, BATAAN - CIVIL  
REGISTRATION  
PHILIPPINES, BENGUET, BAGUIO CITY -  
CIVIL REGISTRATION

### **COURT RECORDS**

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Some of your ancestors may be in court records as defendants, plaintiffs, witnesses, or jurors. They may have participated in matters brought before the court in such cases as:

- Naturalization.
- Annulment.
- Legal separation.
- Debt.
- Public office.
- Taxes.
- Civil and criminal lawsuits.
- Probate (see the "Probate Records" section of this outline).
- Property disputes.
- Crimes.

Unfortunately, court records are complex and difficult to use. There are many records, but few are indexed. Court names have changed over the

years, and the records use many difficult legal terms and abbreviations. Search court records only after you have searched more helpful records. Court records may help establish family relationships and places of residence. They often provide occupations, descriptions of individuals, and other excellent family history information.

There are three main types of legal court cases:

- *Civil cases* involve violations of law that harm an individual (but not society), such as property damage, trespassing, or libel. In these cases, one or more individuals file suit against others to enforce private rights or to receive compensation when their rights have been violated.
- *Equity cases* involve disputes or arguments between individuals when laws have not been violated. In these cases, individuals petition the court to reach a fair decision for both parties. Cases may involve probates of estates or property rights. Today these cases are primarily handled by the Barangay Conciliation Courts.
- *Criminal cases* involve violations of law that are harmful to society, such as drunk driving, theft, and murder. In these cases, the government (or “the people”) files suit against the defendant. Serious crimes are felonies; minor crimes are misdemeanors.

## The Court System

The current court system was reformed in 1980 and does not have records before that date. For records prior to 1980, documents in the Court of First Instance are usually most valuable for family history research. There are three divisions within this court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts, Circuit Criminal Courts, and Courts of Agrarian Relations. You may find important names, dates, and places on records of:

- Adoptions
- Name changes
- Legitimations
- Annulments
- Separations
- Philippine citizenship changes

In addition to the court records, all Philippine citizens are required to declare any changes in civil status to their local civil registrar. The registrar records all changes in books called registers, such as the Register of Acknowledgment of Natural Children and the Register of Changes of Names. Sometimes it is simpler to visit the local civil

registrar’s office than it is to visit the courts. However, the law requiring the reporting of changes to the registrar has not been uniformly kept or enforced.

Although the earliest court records and local civil registrar logs and registers date from 1900, most are dated after World War II.

## EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

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If your ancestors emigrated from or immigrated to the Philippines, there may be a record in the Records Management and Archives Office or in the Commission on Immigration and Deportation, Department of Foreign Affairs. These records generally provide at least:

- The person’s name.
- A place.
- A date.

Sometimes they give information about:

- Parents.
- Religious affiliation.
- Tribute status.
- Age.

## Spanish Emigration Records

The Spanish administration kept fairly detailed emigration records. The Records Management and Archives Office has a small collection of passports (*pasaportes*), deportations (*deportados*), and foreign passports (*pasaportes de extranjeros*). However, Chinese passports were often recorded separately under Chinese passports (*pasaportes de chinos*).

Most of these records have been microfilmed and are available at the Family History Library. To find deportation records, see the Family History Library Catalog, Locality section. Look for the county and then under “Emigration and Immigration.”

## Foreign Travel and Foreign Service Records

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has records about people who emigrated, immigrated, or gave service in consulates and embassies in foreign countries. The address of the ministry is:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Padre Faura  
Ermita, Manila  
Metropolitan Manila, Philippines

## Filipino Immigration to the United States

Some Filipino immigrants arrived in the United States as early as the mid-1700s, but most immigrants came after 1900. Changes in U.S. agricultural techniques on the West Coast and in Hawaii created a high demand for labor. While persons from many countries were recruited to work in Hawaiian sugarcane plantations, Filipinos were the best source of labor because the Philippines was under U.S. administration for the first few decades of the twentieth-century. Between 1900 and 1930 over 63,000 Filipinos immigrated to Hawaii and over 45,000 Filipinos immigrated to the mainland. Two excellent histories of immigration to the United States are:

Mangiafico Luciano. *Contemporary American Immigrants: Patterns of Filipino, Korean, and Chinese Settlement in the United States.*, New York: Praeger, 1988. (FHL book 973 W2mL; computer number 0489924.)

Bautista, Veltisezar. *The Filipino Americans, from 1763 to the Present: Their History, Culture, and Traditions.* Farmington Hills, Michigan: Bookhaus Publishers, 1998.

The Family History Library has several other good reference books that describe early Filipino immigration to the United States:

Saito, Shiro. *The Overseas Filipinos: A Working Bibliography.* Honolulu: University of Hawaii, 1974. (FHL book 959.9 A3t; computer number 0000355.)

Lasker, Bruno. *Filipino Immigration to Continental United States and to Hawaii*, vol. 31. New York: Arno Press, 1969. (FHL book 973 B4ai; fiche 6101684; computer number 0264017.)

Alcantara, Ruben R., Nancy S. Alcantara, and Cesar S. Wycoco. *The Filipinos in Hawaii: An Annotated Bibliography.* Honolulu: Social Science Research Institute, University of Hawaii, 1972. (FHL book 996.9 F23a; film 1697759 item 7; computer number 0254173.)

## GAZETTEERS

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A gazetteer is a list and description of places. You may use it to find where your family lived. Gazetteers describe towns and villages and give the geographic features and the size of the population. They usually include only the places that existed when the gazetteer was published. Places are

generally in alphabetical order similar to dictionary order.

## Modern Place-Names

The Family History Library Catalog lists places by their modern names and boundaries. To find the province of a current city or municipality, use the “see references” at the beginning of the first microfiche for the Philippines and at the beginning of each province.

## Historical Place-Names

Because place-names and boundaries have changed in the Philippines, you will probably need sources that describe places of earlier times. In the Family History Library Catalog, Locality section, the “see references” provide historical place-names and alternate spellings. These references and a good atlas should help you solve most research problems.

## County Origins and Boundary Changes

Because provinces and municipalities were often divided and their names changed, you may need to determine previous boundaries and jurisdictions to locate your ancestor’s records.

A local history is a very good source of information about an area’s origin and evolution. Many provinces have historical societies that have collected and compiled local histories of regions within the province.

You also may check atlases and gazetteers for boundary and name changes.

The National Census and Statistics Office has current boundary listings.

The National Historical Institute has a very good collection of local histories and biographies of prominent citizens.

For place-names not in the “see references” of the Family History Library Catalog, see a good gazetteer, such as:

*Philippine Islands: Official Standard Names Approved by the States’ Board on Geographic Names.* Washington: U.S. Office of Geography, 1953.

United States. Board on Geographic Names. *Gazetteer to Maps of the Philippine Islands: Map Series AMD S401 (second edition).* Washington: Army Map Service, 1944.

*A Pronouncing Gazetteer and Geographical Dictionary of the Philippine Islands, United States of America, with Maps, Charts, and Illustrations.* Washington: Government Printing Office, 1902. (FHL film 0599315; computer number 0383787.)

## **GENEALOGY**

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The term *genealogy* in this outline and in the Family History Library Catalog describes a variety of family information gathered by researchers, societies, or archives. Records containing this information may be very helpful and can save you valuable time. However, because they may contain either primary or secondary information or both, you must carefully evaluate their accuracy. They may include:

- Pedigree charts.
- Compiled data on families.
- Correspondence.
- Ancestor lists.
- Research exchange files.
- Record abstracts.
- Collections of original or copied documents.

### **Major Collections and Databases**

The Family History Library has records of previous research and records of researchers interested in sharing family information.

- *International Genealogical Index* lists the names of many deceased individuals who lived in the Philippines. This index is on microfiche at the library and at each Family History Center. Although the Philippine records are not yet extensive, the index is growing every year and is a valuable source to check.
- *Ancestral File* is a computer file of family genealogies. It contains genealogy information that has been submitted by private individuals since 1979. If other researchers have compiled information on your families and submitted it to this file, you may want to search this database.

### **Family Histories**

A few families have produced histories that may have genealogical information, biographies, photographs, and other excellent information. These histories usually tell about several generations of the family. Family histories and genealogies are usually available at larger public libraries and historical societies.

The Family History Library has some published Philippine family histories and newsletters. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog, Surname section. Only the main surnames in each family history are listed in the catalog.

If you find your surname in one of these histories, try to determine if it is *your* family. Not all persons with the same surname are related. Often you need to do some research in original records before you can connect your ancestry to families in these histories.

### **Printed Compilations**

Many individuals and societies have compiled and published ancestor lists, lineage books, and genealogy tables. These are usually about the ancestry or descent of individuals from a specific time, place, or event. For example, you may find compiled genealogies of immigrant Chinese families, soldiers who served in the War of Resistance, or members of a religious group. An outstanding compiled genealogy is:

Fernandez de Recas Garcia, Guillermo Sergio. *Aspirantes americanos a cargos del Santo Oficio: sus genealógicas ascendentes* (Aspiring Americans in Charge of the Holy Office: Their Genealogical Ascendancy). Mexico: Librería de Manuel Porrúa, 1956. (FHL book 972 D3fr; film 0283553; computer number 0252908.) This compilation gives genealogical sketches of 1,208 persons who applied for positions in the Inquisition from the sixteenth-to the nineteenth-centuries in Spanish America and the Philippines.

These types of records are in the locality section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

PHILIPPINES - GENEALOGY

### **Manuscript Collections**

Many libraries, archives, societies, and individuals have collected unpublished records about families, including the life work of genealogists, records submitted to patriotic or lineage societies, and records submitted to share genealogical information (such as pedigree charts). You will need to search most manuscript collections personally.

## **HISTORY**

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To do effective research, you need some understanding of the historical events that affected your family and their records. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends

may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. Your family may be listed in records of these events, such as land and military documents.

Your ancestors will become more interesting if you learn about the events that interested or involved them. In a history, for example, you might learn what events occurred the year your great-grandparents were married.

Find histories of the Philippines or its provinces in the Locality section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

PHILIPPINES - HISTORY  
PHILIPPINES, (PROVINCE) - HISTORY

The following dates are important:

- 1521– The Philippines is discovered by Europe.
- 1762 The early Spanish colonization period.
- 1571 Regular trade established between the Spaniards and the Chinese.
- 1762– The later period of Spanish rule. The
- 1898 Seven Years' War (1756–63). Cash-crop economy.
- 1820– Social and economic changes as the Port
- 72 of Manila opened to foreign commerce.
- 1868 Spanish Revolution. Queen Isabella II deposed.
- 1898 Spanish-American War.
- 1898 12 June. Declaration of Philippine independence from Spaniards.
- 1899– First phase of American rule.
- 1935
- 1934 First constitution.
- 1941– The Japanese occupied the Philippines.
- 46
- 1946– The Philippines became a republic.

### Philippine History

There are reliable records for four main periods of Philippine history:

- Spanish rule (1521–1898)
- American rule (1898–1946)
- Japanese occupation (1941–1946)

- Philippine self rule (1946–present)

The following are a few of many sources available in most large libraries:

Edgerton, Ronald K. "Survey of Historical Materials in Manila on 19th Century Philippine History." *Bulletin of the American Historical Collection*. 1 (1972): 7–23.

Miravite, Rosalina S. *Books on Philippine History*. Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 1965.

Van Niel, Robert. *Survey of Historical Source Material in Java and Manila*. Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, c1970. (FHL book 959 A5v; computer number 0313146.)

### Local Histories

Local histories are some of the most valuable resources for family history research. Published histories of municipalities, cities, and provinces usually have accounts of families. They describe the settlement of the area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You can also find lists of early inhabitants, soldiers, patriots, and civil officials in these records. Even if your ancestor is not listed, information on other relatives may give important clues for locating him or her. A local history may also help a person think of other records to search.

Many histories of cities and provinces have sections or volumes of biographical information. These may give information on up to 25 percent of the families in the area.

In addition, study and enjoy local histories for the background information about your family's lifestyle, community, and living environment.

In 1952 the Bureau of Public Schools began collecting and compiling local histories, legends, customs, traditions, and even songs and poems. Local schoolteachers led this work and although much of the information is undocumented and secondary, you can gather much information from these sources. These records are in the Philippine National Library's Filipiniana collection and in libraries throughout the Philippines.

### LAND AND PROPERTY

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Philippine land records are in government departments and sometimes other offices, such as:

- Archives Division, Record Management and Archives Office.
- Land Registration Commission (deeds).
- Bureau of Agrarian Reform.
- Local land registration offices.
- Title companies.

The Family History Library has filmed many land records from each province and indexes to the *Manila Gazette* that deal with land transactions.

## **LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES**

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Most pre-1900 genealogical material is written in Spanish, although you will also occasionally find records in Latin, French, Dutch, or Hebrew. You do not need to be fluent in Spanish to research Philippine records. Language aids can give you the language information you need. Use a good Spanish dictionary or:

- *Genealogical Word List: Spanish*. Salt Lake City, Utah: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1989 (34104).
- *Spanish Records Extraction: An Instruction Guide*. Salt Lake City, Utah: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1981. (FHL book 980 D27s; fiche 6089702; computer number 0254664.)
- *Genealogical Word List: Latin*. Salt Lake City, Utah: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1997 (34077).

There are over 87 distinct dialects in the Philippines, and many records are partly in a local dialect. Some common dialects are Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Waray, Bicolano, Pangasinan, and Pampango. If you find foreign words in your research, find out which dialect was spoken in the province where the document was created, and then look the word up in an appropriate dictionary. You may know someone who speaks that language who can help you.

Useful references for Philippine languages are:

Llamzon, Teodoro A. *Handbook of Philippine Language Groups*. Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press, 1978. (FHL book Asia 499.21 L77h; computer number 0040586.)

Garcia, Pilar Cruz. *A List of Dictionaries in Tagalog and Other Philippine Languages*. Manila: Institute of Science and Technology Library, 1958.

Although Filipino is the official language of the Philippines, some provincial records are written in different dialects. English has also been used extensively from the time Philippines was a U.S. territory. Dictionaries for various dialects are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

PHILIPPINES - LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES.

## **MAPS**

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Maps help you find the places where your ancestors lived. They identify political boundaries, names of places, geographical features, cemeteries, churches, and migration routes. Historical maps are useful for finding communities that no longer exist or that have been incorporated into surrounding urban areas.

In Philippine research, some maps may not clearly indicate political boundaries or give the historical information you need. Often there are several places with the same name. Today, for example, five localities in the Philippines have the name *Viga*. Make sure you have the correct locality before proceeding with your research.

### **Finding the Town on a Map**

For successful research, you need to know the town where your ancestor lived. Because many towns have the same name, you may need some information about the town. Before using a map, you may search gazetteers, histories, family records, and other sources to learn all you can about:

- The province your ancestor's town was in.
- The province your ancestor came from.
- The name of the parish where your ancestor was baptized or married.
- The towns where other relatives and ancestors lived.
- Your ancestor's occupation (this may indicate the size or industries of the town).
- Nearby localities, such as large cities.
- Nearby features, such as rivers and mountains.
- Industries in the area.
- Other names the town was known by.

Gazetteers, maps, and information about the place (such as the size of nearby features and cities) can often enable you to identify the political district or county your ancestors came from. See also the "Gazetteers" section of this outline

The Philippine Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey has an excellent collection and is the

nation's primary producer of maps. Its publications are indexed in:

Philippines (Republic). Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey. *Topographical Maps, Nautical and Aeronautical Charts and Technical Publications*. Manila: N.p.

The Philippine National Library has a good collection of historical and modern maps. These are indexed in:

Maloles, Leticia R., ed. *A Guide to the Map Collection of the Filipiniana Division*. Manila: Bibliography Division, National Library, 1971. TNL Research Guide Series no. 1.

The U.S. Library of Congress also has a sizeable collection of historical Philippine maps, which is analyzed in:

Phillips, Lee P. "A List of Maps, Charts, and Views of the Philippine Islands in the Library of Congress," *Bibliography of the Philippine Islands*. Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1903, published as Senate Doc. no. 74.

Excellent up-to-date maps are available at the U.S. Army Topographical Command. The following sources describe maps:

*Map Deposit Catalog*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Army Topographic Command, 1970 edition.

*Foreign Maps*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Army, 1963. IV. The Philippines: pp 146–149 TM5–248.

## Atlases

An atlas is a bound collection of maps. It may contain historical information for provinces or municipalities. Most public and university libraries and many historical societies have good maps and atlases, such as:

Hendry, Robert S., ed. *Atlas of the Philippines*. Manila: Phil-Asian Publishers, c1945. (FHL book 959.9 E7a; computer number 0344269.) *Atlas of the Philippine Islands*. (Original title: *Atlas de Filipinas, colección de 30 mapas*.) Photocopy of the original published: Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1900. (FHL book 959.9 E7ap; film 0599778 item 3; fiche 6072407; computer number 0345882.)

Some maps showing political, historical, and administrative divisions in the Philippines can be found on the Internet at:

[www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/9121/maps.html](http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/9121/maps.html)

The Family History Library also has a small collection of loose maps. See the Family History Library, Locality section, under:

PHILIPPINES - MAPS

## MILITARY RECORDS

Military records describe the induction, draft, conscription, orders, discharge, grants, and pension requests of those who served in the military. There are two categories of records:

- Spanish colonization records (pre-1900) are stored in the Archives Division of the Record Management and Archives Office.
- Modern records (Post-1900) are in the National Census and Statistics Office.

### Spanish Colonization period Military Records

Records from the Spanish colonization period describe the conscription of recruits by the drawing of lots (*quintas*) and military personnel (*Guardia Civil* (Civil Guard) and *hojas de servicio* (military service records)). These records generally include the name, age, and unit number of the soldier. Some include the parents and marital status and parents' names as well. The records may not be in chronological order, and many are missing. If you make arrangements in advance, you may search these records at the Record Management and Archives Office.

The Family History Library has filmed the military records in the Record Management and Archives Office. See the Locality section of the Family History Library Catalog, under "Military Records."

To search military records, you must know at least the province where your ancestor lived when he was of age to serve in the military (late teens to early twenties).

### Modern Records

The Family History Library has indexed service records of the Philippine National Guard for 1918 to 1919. The original records are in the Records Management and Archives Office.

## MINORITIES

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It is important to learn the history of the ethnic, racial, and religious groups your ancestors belonged to. For example, you might want to study a history of the Chinese in Manila or a cultural survey of the Muslim Filipinos. This historical background can help you identify where your ancestors lived, when they lived there, where they migrated, the types of records they might be listed in, and other helpful information.

Present-day Filipinos come from a variety of backgrounds. The following important points will help you understand the modern Filipinos ethnic, cultural, religious, and social backgrounds. This information could give some clues to help you in your genealogical research.

The isolation of the Philippine islands has produced cultural, social, and linguistic diversity. There are over 87 spoken dialects and social patterns. Over 350 years of Spanish rule and years of American administration affected cultural and social life and contributed to a mixing of races. The Chinese, Japanese, British, and others also lived in the Philippines and contributed to its culture. Hence, the “average” Filipino, unlike his or her pure Negrito and Malay-stock ancestors, is a “Proto-Malayan”—a mix of various bloodlines and cultures. The following four groups of peoples produced unique records valuable for genealogical research: the Chinese, the Spanish, the Americans, and the Muslims.

### Chinese

The Chinese were in the Philippines when the Spanish arrived, and in spite of Spanish fears and suspicions, they managed to grow and flourish. When the Spanish colonized Manila in 1571, there were only 150 Chinese residents; 30 years later, there were 30,000. Most of these Chinese immigrants were from Fukien Province in the region of Amoy.

Several record types give information about the Philippine Chinese. Spain’s desire to control the Chinese led them to take many Chinese censuses (*padrón de chinos*). Most of these censuses were taken in the 1800s. See the Locality section of the Family History Library Catalog, under the provincial entry. For example, approximately 80 rolls of Metropolitan Manila Chinese census registers dated from 1786 to 1901, are found under:

PHILIPPINES, METROPOLITAN MANILA -  
CENSUS

The library also has Chinese baptism applications (FHL films 1037502–1037510; computer number 0215661) and some Chinese cemetery records (FHL films 1407481–1407491; computer number 0646797). Besides these Spanish documents of Chinese peoples, the Chinese produced several major published genealogies, such as:

Gamboa, Marina L. *Locsin, 1750–1980: Genealogy*. Negros Occidental, Philippines: N.p. 1981. (FHL book 929.2599 L819g; film 1148801; computer number 0079560.)

Other references are:

Ch’en, Ching-ho. *The Chinese Community in the Sixteenth Century Philippines*. Tokyo: The Centre for East Asian Cultural Studies, Tenriji-hosha Printing Co. Ltd., 1968. (FHL book 959.9 F2c; computer number 0198953.)

Amyot, Jacques. *The Manila Chinese*. Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University, Institute of Philippine Culture, 1973. (FHL book 959.9 F2a; computer number 0465966.)

McBeath, Gerald A. *Political Integration of the Philippine Chinese*. Berkeley, Calif.: Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of California, 1973. (FHL book 959.9 F2m; computer number 0191983.)

Colorado University, Institute of Asiatic Affairs. *Directory of Chinese Personal Names in the Philippines*. Washington D. C.: Reproduced and distributed by External Research Staff, Office of Intelligence Research, Department of State, 1953. (External Research Paper no. 110.)

In addition, the Philippine Chinese publish an annual journal:

*The Annals of Philippine Chinese Historical Association*. Manila: Philippine Chinese Historical Association, 1970–. (FHL book 959.9 B2p.)

An example of emigration from Fujian Province, China, to the Philippines, Singapore, and Malaya can be found on the Internet at:

[members.tripod.com/~montanajoe16/fujian.html](http://members.tripod.com/~montanajoe16/fujian.html)

East Asian records are not listed in the Family History Library Catalog. They are listed in the Asian Microfilm Card Catalog at the Family History Library, which can also be ordered on

microfiche to a branch library (FHL film 1148276–1148281, 120882–1208872).

## Spaniards

There were never more than 4,000 Spanish leaders in the Philippines at any one time, but in the early years (1521–1762) they provided the secular and ecclesiastical leadership. An index of all Spanish officials and employees who lived in the Philippines is in:

Magdaleno, Ricardo. *Catálogo XX, Títulos de Indias*. Valladolid: N.p., 1954. (FHL book 946 N23m; fiche 6001595; computer number 0306881.)

Biographies of some of the Spanish nobility may be found in:

Retana, Wenceslao Emilio y Gamboa. *Indice de personas nobles y otras de calidad que han estado en Filipinas desde 1521 hasta 1898*. Madrid: Librería de Victoriano Suarez, 1921. (FHL book 959.9 D32r; film 962157 item 1 or 1329150 item 8; computer number 0187149.)

## Americans

The Americans occupied the Philippines from 1899 to 1935. In 1992 they still had two military installations there, but were in the process of pulling out. Most records made by the Americans remain in the Philippines in the U.S. Embassy. Many vital records created during the U.S. administration were stored in Philippine facilities; many of these were destroyed during World War II. See the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline for the address of the U.S. Embassy Library. Look for service records for civil servants (mostly Americans) for 1898 to 1950 in the Locality section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

PHILIPPINES - OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

## Muslims

The Muslim Filipinos (*Moros*) have remained distinct and comprise about 5 percent of the total Philippine population. The only primary information for the early Muslims comes from written genealogies called *tarsilas*. *The tarsila*, also called *salsila*, *sarsila*, or *salasila*, was derived from Arabic *silsilah* meaning chain or link.

A tarsila supports the claim of an aristocratic family that it descends from sultans or lesser nobility called royal *datus* or *datos* back to the

prophet Muhammad. Tarsilas give information about the early history of the Muslim Filipinos and the ruling clans. They primarily served political purposes and were used to strengthen the legitimacy of the ruling class. Although limited in number and coverage, they are important for researching Muslim Filipinos. These records are usually written in Arabic script and in a local dialect. An in-depth study of the tarsilas of the Moros and several sample *tarsilas* are in:

Saleeby, Najeeb M. and Antonio Martel de Gayangos. *Study in Moro History, Law and Religion*. Manila: The Filipiniana Book Guild, 1976. (FHL book 959.97 H6s; film 0795893; computer number 0035540.)

These histories by Peter G. Gowing also provide information about Muslims in the Philippines:

*Muslim Filipinos—Heritage and Horizon*. Quezon City: New Day Publishers, 1970. (FHL book 959.9 H6g; computer number 0430083.)

*Mosque and Moro: A Study of Muslims in the Philippines*. Manila: Philippine Federation of Christian Churches, 1964.

## Native Minorities

There are few significant records for local native minorities, but some helpful reference materials are described in:

Antonio, Celia M. *A Preliminary Bibliography of Philippine Cultural Minorities*. Quezon City: Commission on National Integration, 1967. (FHL book 959.9 F23a; computer number 0085138.)

For more information on these and other minorities, see the Family History Library Catalog, under:

PHILIPPINES - MINORITIES.

## NAMES, PERSONAL

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It is important to understand how surnames and given names developed and changed in the Philippines. You can gain important clues about a family's origin by examining its surname. The Filipinos began adopting surnames in the 16th century during Spanish colonization; before this, the Filipinos found one name adequate to meet their needs. As the Catholic Church assigned Christian names to new converts and as more and more Filipinos began to use their native names and their Christian names, the government saw a need to standardize naming practices among the Filipinos.

The Spaniards issued the Claveria Decree in 1849 in an attempt to assign all Filipinos surnames. This decree was inconsistently enforced, and there are no records describing its institution. In many cases the local magistrates simply assigned surnames to those who did not already have one. They used the following alphabetical index of surnames compiled for that purpose:

Claveria y Zaldua, Narciso. *Catálogo Alfabético de Apellidos* (Alphabetical Catalog of Surnames). Manila: National Archives, 1973. (FHL book 959.9 D43c; film 0795723 item 6; fiche 6072406; computer number 0186179.)

Because surnames were all assigned over a relatively short period of time and were taken from a single source, it is not uncommon to find that all the surnames from an area begin with the same letter of the alphabet or that all the people of a *barangay* have the same surname. A *barangay* was a basic unit of local administration used during Spanish occupation from 1565 to 1898. Today a *barangay* refers to communities of 1,000 inhabitants within a city or municipality that is administrated by a group of elected officials. A number of *barangay* could have made up a municipality.

More information on Philippine surname customs and a long list of native Filipino surnames can be found on the Internet at the following addresses:

[www.bibingka.com/names/default.html](http://www.bibingka.com/names/default.html)

[www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/9121/surnames.html](http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/9121/surnames.html)

## Given Names

Many Filipinos modify their names to match their environment. For example, a man named *Roberto* may anglicize his name to *Rob* or *Robert* after moving to a city. *Jose* would likely become *Joe*, and *Guillermo* may change his name to *Bill*. This is a common practice to keep in mind when tracing a family's movements. The following book can help you trace such names:

Garcia, Mauro. *Philippine Pseudonyms, Aliases, Pen Names, Pet Names, Screen Names, and Name Aberrations*. Manila: Bibliographical Society of the Philippines, 1965.

Another Philippine naming custom is the Spanish practice of assigning a mother's maiden name as her child's middle name. Hence, the mother of a child named *Bernardo Juarez de la Cruz* may very well have the maiden name of *Juarez*. There are

exceptions to this rule, but this custom may be very helpful as you trace family relationships.

## NOTARIAL RECORDS

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The Family History Library has an excellent collection of notarial records from most provinces of the Philippines. Although difficult to use, they can provide valuable information.

Notarial records are written in English, Spanish, and various Philippine dialects. Some are indexed, but most are not. To use these records you need to know:

- The date your ancestor used the services of a notary.
- The notary's name.
- The province where your ancestor lived.
- The place where the document was notarized.

Notarial records are in the Locality section of the Family History Library Catalog under Notarial Records:

PHILIPPINES, AGUSAN DEL NORTE,  
BUENAVISTA - NOTARIAL RECORDS

Sometimes you can find the name of the notary by looking in death registers. If you know the notary's name, you can look for it in the Author/Title section of the catalog.

A few notarial records are from provinces (1900–70), but most are from Manila (1700–1970).

## PROBATE RECORDS

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Probate records are court records which determine, after a person's death, how an estate is distributed to heirs and creditors and how dependents are cared for. You may find:

- The person's death date.
- Names of family members.
- Family relationships and residences.
- Information about adoptions or guardianship of minor children and dependents.

Although probate records are one of the most accurate sources of genealogical evidence, use them cautiously. For example, they may omit the names of deceased family members or those who previously received an inheritance, or the spouse mentioned may not be the parent of the children mentioned.

## Spanish Records

The Bureau of Records Management has some probate records from the Spanish colonization period. Most of these records are personal estates (*bienes de difuntos*). Some of these records are indexed. They generally give:

- The name of the deceased.
- The date of death.
- A detailed list of heirs.
- Supporting documents about the wealth and property of the deceased.

These records are in the Family History Library Catalog, Locality section, under “Probate Records”:

PHILIPPINES, METROPOLITAN MANILA -  
PROBATE RECORDS

## Modern Records

Modern (post-1945) probate records are in courts, civil offices, and the National Census and Statistics Office. Because Filipinos are not likely to write wills and testaments, this source tends to be rare. It is also rather difficult to use. Nevertheless, it can be helpful to check local courts, civil archives, and the National Census and Statistics Office for probate records, especially if your ancestor was affluent.

The Family History Library also has some wills and guardianship records. The guardianship records are mostly from Manila (1923–63).

## OTHER RECORDS

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Other types of records that are not mentioned in this outline are listed in the Family History Library Catalog, Locality section. For example, see the following topics:

ALMANACS  
BIBLIOGRAPHY  
CHURCH DIRECTORIES  
CHURCH HISTORY  
ETHNOLOGY  
GUARDIANSHIP  
MEDICAL RECORDS  
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT  
PUBLIC RECORDS  
SCHOOLS  
SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS  
TAXATION

## FOR FURTHER READING

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More detailed information is in a number of sources at most larger libraries. The following sources may be helpful:

## Basic Research Strategies

Vance, Lee W. *Tracing Your Philippine Ancestors*. Provo, Utah: Stevenson’s Genealogical Center, 1980. (FHL book 959.9 D27v; film 0795859 item 11; computer number 0065360.) This work is essential if you are beginning research in Philippine genealogy. It includes valuable local histories; descriptions of most records types; a bibliography; and practical, step-by-step instructions for effective research.

## Important References

Dizon, Jesse A.M. “Bibliography of Books and Articles on Filipino Family and Kinship.” *Philippine Sociological Review*. N.p., 1971. This bibliography is primarily for periodicals. Most articles give scholarly insights into Philippine family structure.

## Bibliographies

Saito, Shiro. *Philippine Research Materials and Library Resources: An Overview*. Hawaii: University of Hawaii Library, 1973. (FHL book 959.9 A3ss; computer number 0170048.) This work is an excellent overview of research materials available in various libraries and collections.

Bernardo, Gabriel A. *Bibliography of Philippine Bibliographies, 1593–1961*. Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press, 1968. (FHL book 959.9 A33b; computer number 0178716.)

Hart, Donn V. *An Annotated Bibliography of Philippine Bibliographies: 1965–1974*. De Kalb, IL: Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, 1974. (FHL book 959.9 A33h; computer number 0378232.)

Onorato, Michael P. *Philippine Bibliography (1899–1946)*. Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO, 1968. (FHL book 959.9 A3p; computer number 0186208.)

## COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

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The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

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