



Short Paper

# Life Story of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava: Unsung Hero of Sorsogon

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*Date received:* April 6, 2023

*Date received in revised form:* July 29, 2024

*Date accepted:* August 17, 2024

Recommended Citation:

Mendoza, M. J., Escota, L.J., Olayres, G., Castillo, D. (2024). Life story of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava: Unsung hero of Sorsogon. *Puissant*, 5, 2394-2419.

## Abstract

History plays a significant role in examining, narrating the past, and knowing the identity of today's generation. Locally, there is less attention to all those stories, legacies, and contributions of an individual to the local history in Sorsogon. One of them is a native Bulusanon, Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava, who fought against the American colonizer. This study narrated his life story. Specifically, this study aims to answer the following questions: what his biographical profile is, what are his contributions during the Philippine-American War in Sorsogon, and how he was perceived by the various sectors. The study employed a narrative research design and purposive sampling using structured interviews. Results showed that Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava came from a prominent family of leaders and became the politico-military governor of Sorsogon. He showed



leadership through his selfless acts and service. His contribution was his life story, written down in the local history of the province and shaped the identity of a Sorsoganon. Moreover, his life serves as an inspiration and a lesson to everyone about what Sorsoganon is to their native land. Hence, he was perceived by the various sectors as an individual who portrayed outstanding leadership. They considered him the Bulusan unsung hero as he led the resistance against the American colonizer and deserves to be recognized and honored as the local hero of Sorsogon.

*Keywords* – Bulusan, life story, local hero, Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava

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## INTRODUCTION

Cultivating history requires a broader scope of information and knowledge, which includes studying the emergence and decline of civilizations, the development of socio-economic changes, the interaction of people and the environment, and other phenomena that have a significant impact on individuals, communities, society, and global interconnectedness. History is a written document from numerous studies that consider the process, events, and individuals who become part of molding and shaping the country's identity. According to Morphakis (2020), one of the goals of history is to serve as a platform for wide-ranging, impartial, and intellectually honest discussion about the establishment of our government and society.

Local history contains ample facts and narratives that show the occurrence of social changes over the period. It is the micro representation of a large context of our national history which also focuses on how the people and society transform due to changes. Furthermore, local history serves as a framework of our identity, involvement, and inspiration for our socio-cultural life. Local history is a significant instrument that aids in the formation of identity and placemaking. Local history tells of communal rituals, customs, and festivities that are intertwined with individual and familial relationships that produce a layered and subtle landscape of interpretations (Willis, 2016).

Consequently, the state must promote, preserve, and develop the history, culture, and arts of the country. Through providing some programs, projects, research, and to name a few, for the benefit of the Filipino people. The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines clearly states the provisions in Article XIV Section 15 that:

*Section 15. Arts and letters shall enjoy the patronage of the State. The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations.*

The 1987 Philippine Constitution encourages the studies and research for the culture and the arts in schools, institutions, and communities, provided in Article XIV Section 18 that:

*Section 18. (2) The State shall encourage and support research and studies on the arts and culture.*

Expanding our knowledge about local history will help to create a new historical outline to establish a strong and comprehensive study of the locality. Reviving the legacy of prominent people will fill the vague understanding of our historical narratives with valuable information that could be used as a meaningful outlook in present and future generations. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) (NCCA, 2021) created a research agenda that intensified the importance of local histories. The study aimed to patronize the identity of one community, foster a profound understanding, elevate the level of acknowledgment towards historical narratives, and encourage young individuals to safeguard and preserve the local history. Any findings may be translated and preserved in the forms of written documents and media platforms to create a larger influence among Filipinos.

The Cultural Mapping Program of NCCA in coordination with the Local Government Unit (LGU), is strengthened to enrich and preserve local identity and cultural aspects. LGUs and other participants or local organizations can use cultural mapping to discover their local and cultural values while preserving and conserving historical accounts and documents for future use. Relative to this, education is also an instrument for inculcating and elevating local consciousness among students. The Department of Education (DepEd) actively participates in NCCA's program through the DepEd Memorandum No. 47, s. 2016 aims to provide training for all teachers to promote a culture-based curriculum that empowers young learners to have profound knowledge about history and cultural identity. Thus, all teachers must acquire all the competencies that support delivering effective pedagogical teaching processes of inculcating historical and cultural properties among students. Additionally, it has an overall goal of facilitating and accessing culture-based education in the Philippines.

Several noteworthy individuals who became a source of inspiration are highly appreciated by declaring them as local heroes as part of empowering local history. For a person to be recognized as a local hero, there is due process of law to be undertaken. The role of legislation by the LGU is pivotal to this study and has the power to further investigate such claims based on the circumstances that arise, which resolved the case through a committee hearing that calls for the utmost participation of local historians, curators, and national agencies. In the Philippines, the process and investigation of national hero selections, nominations, and declarations are carried out by the National Hero Committee under Executive Order No. 75, 1993, whereas Filipinos should amplify a sense of nationalism and patriotism. Thus, committees are tasked to recommend Filipino nationals as heroes based on acknowledging their good character and valuable attainment for the country. The procedures utilized certain criteria and evaluations in selecting qualified Filipinos who could be considered official heroes through historical research.

For the past hundred years of Philippine history, Filipinos have acknowledged individuals for their notable contribution towards the attainment of independence during the colonization era. Among them is Dr. Jose Rizal, acclaimed as the foremost hero; Gat. Andres Bonifacio, who is known as the Father of the Philippine Revolution; Emilio Aguinaldo, who was credited for establishing the First Philippine Republic; Emilio Jacinto was noted for his brilliance, identifying him as the brain of the Katipunan; Apolinario Mabini, recognized as the sublime paralytic. Others, such as Antonio Luna, Gregorio del Pilar, Miguel Malvar, Lapu-Lapu, and Macario Sakay, also have a well-known story that is highly appreciated and valued.

For instance, Simeon Ola has been recognized as a local hero of the province of Albay. He is regarded as the last Filipino general who surrendered to the American forces during the Philippine-American war. According to Umali (2020), Ola publicly surrendered with 28 of his soldiers and officers on September 25, 1903, after realizing that they had a lesser chance to win the battle he had fought so heroically. He exemplifies a great contribution to the local history of Albay as he was a man who sacrificed his comforts for the sake of a greater cause. It's the reason why he was remembered as the foremost local hero of the Province of Albay. His heroism is commemorated on the 2nd day of September of every succeeding year as "Simeon Ola Day" under Republic Act No. 11136 s. 2018.

In the local context of the Sorsogon province, there is less attention to all those stories, legacies, and extraordinary contributions of an individual to the local history of Sorsogon. One of them is a native Bulusanon, Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava (English Name: Lt. Col. Emeterio Escava Funes), who fought courageously for freedom during the Philippine-American war (Figure 1). In March 1900, General Belarmino appointed Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes to replace Lt. Col. Amando Airan as politico-military governor of Sorsogon and instructed him to coordinate the armed resistance in the province (Dery, 1991). He is among Sorsogon's defenders who led the resistance against the American colonization in the province. It pained Funes's heart to see Sorsogon so helpless that the colonizers could enter the town like a man going into his own house (Ataviado, 1999).

Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava was testified by the different sectors as the most noteworthy person in Sorsogon who expressed his heroic act in fighting for the freedom and independence of his province. The study will provide information about Col. Funes during the American occupation in Sorsogon. Furthermore, it will purposely discuss the narrative history of Col. Funes on how he initiated the revolutionary movement against foreign invaders.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

This historical study was conducted in Sorsogon using descriptive analysis, which involved the use of survey questionnaires and interview guides. The study aims to

enhance our understanding of the life story of Lt. Col. Funes, who served as the politico-military governor of Sorsogon, through the collection, analysis, and interpretation of historical narratives.

### **Instrument**

Interview guide and questionnaires that comprise the biographical profile of Lt. Col. Funes in terms of (a) personal information, (b) family background, (c) educational attainment, (d) contributions, and (e) perception of the various sectors. In addition, the study used semi-structured interviews conducted from March to April 2022. The questionnaires utilized were subjected to content validation by experts. Content validation involves the use of informed opinions from acknowledged experts in the field, which provides valuable information, evidence, assessments, and judgments (Fernández-Gómez et al., 2020).

### **Participants**

The participants were purposively selected. The primary consideration is that the participant must know Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes. To ensure that, a preliminary interview was conducted. This study was participated in by fifteen (15) key informants, including one family member of Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava who has a detailed understanding of his life, one Local historian who has a wide range of study about the history of Sorsogon, one Museum curator, one from Military sector, and one Committee Chairperson on Culture and the Arts of the Sangguniang Bayan of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Bulusan who has an in-depth analysis about how his life contributed to the identity of Sorsogon, four social science teachers and six local folks of Bulusan, Sorsogon. Researchers also sought permission from the family of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava to have access to the unpublished historical narratives from Tidbits of Bulusan written by Emeterio S. Funes Jr.

### **Data Collection and Analysis**

The questionnaire was distributed to the target key informants through online and printed sheets. Those who were reached out through email or any available social media were asked to answer the questions in the Word document. However, those key informants who were interviewed were directly asked by the researchers based on the approved date and time of the appointment.

On the other hand, responses from the participants were extracted from online and printed sheets. The attained responses were subjected to triangulation and thematic analysis. The researchers strongly detached impartiality and conception of bias to ensure consistency and reliability. Moreover, secondary data was collected from the compiled historical narratives, resolutions, and books related to the local history of Sorsogon province.

## Ethical considerations

For ethical considerations, researchers strictly observed the minimum public health safety protocols when gathering data. The researchers also sought permission from the participant to take a record of the interview, either audio or video. The confidentiality of the participants is highly valued, wherein researchers only had a copy of the recorded conversation, and the transcribing of these was done in a private room. No personal information was disclosed to any third parties.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Biographical Profile of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava

Lieutenant Colonel Emeterio Funes y Escava, a native Bulusanon, was born on March 2, 1870, in Punta Baluarte, which is currently known as Dapdap, Bulusan Sorsogon. He was baptized in St. James the Greater Parish Church the following day after he was born. Lt. Col. Funes came from a prominent family, for he was the son of Cabeza Don Cleto Funes of Bulusan and Fabiana Escava of Gubat. His paternal grandparents were Don Juan Funes and Doña Gavina Fortes, who came from the family line of *gobernadorcillos* of Bulusan. Doña Gavina was the daughter of Don Francisco del Prado, who was the *gobernadorcillo* in 1829, and her great grandfather Don Juan Antonio was the *gobernadorcillo* in 1797. Meanwhile, his maternal grandmother was Antonia Escava. This implies that Lt. Col. Funes possesses the blood of leaders, for his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather became officials during Spanish colonization in the province. His father earned the position of *Cabeza or Teniente del Barrio*, which is equal to the current position of Barangay Captain. His grandfather and great-grandfather both became the *gobernadorcillos* or the municipal mayor in the modern day.



Figure 1. Portrait of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava. (Source: Museo Sorsogon)

Further, Lt. Col. Funes finished his education both at primary and elementary level in the Escuela Pia Bulusan and went to Manila, where he took his secondary level education in “*Segunda Enseñanza*” during freshman year together with his cousin Anastacio Camara y Funes and Casimiro and Lupo Garcia where they all lived in Santa Cruz district of Manila in 1886-1887 under his private teacher Don Juan Evangelista at *Calzada de Bilibid*, which in the present is located at Claro M. Recto Avenue in Manila.

On October 11, 1899, he married Escolastica Sesbreño y Gabales and raised four children named Generosa, born in 1900, the same year when he was designated as the politico-military governor of Sorsogon by General Belarmino. He also has a daughter named Trinidad in 1901, Antonio, who died in his childhood, and Emeterio Jr., who was born in 1909. This implies that when he was a revolutionary leader, he also became a father, and despite having a huge responsibility to his family, he still managed to pursue his endeavor to lead and fight for Sorsogon.

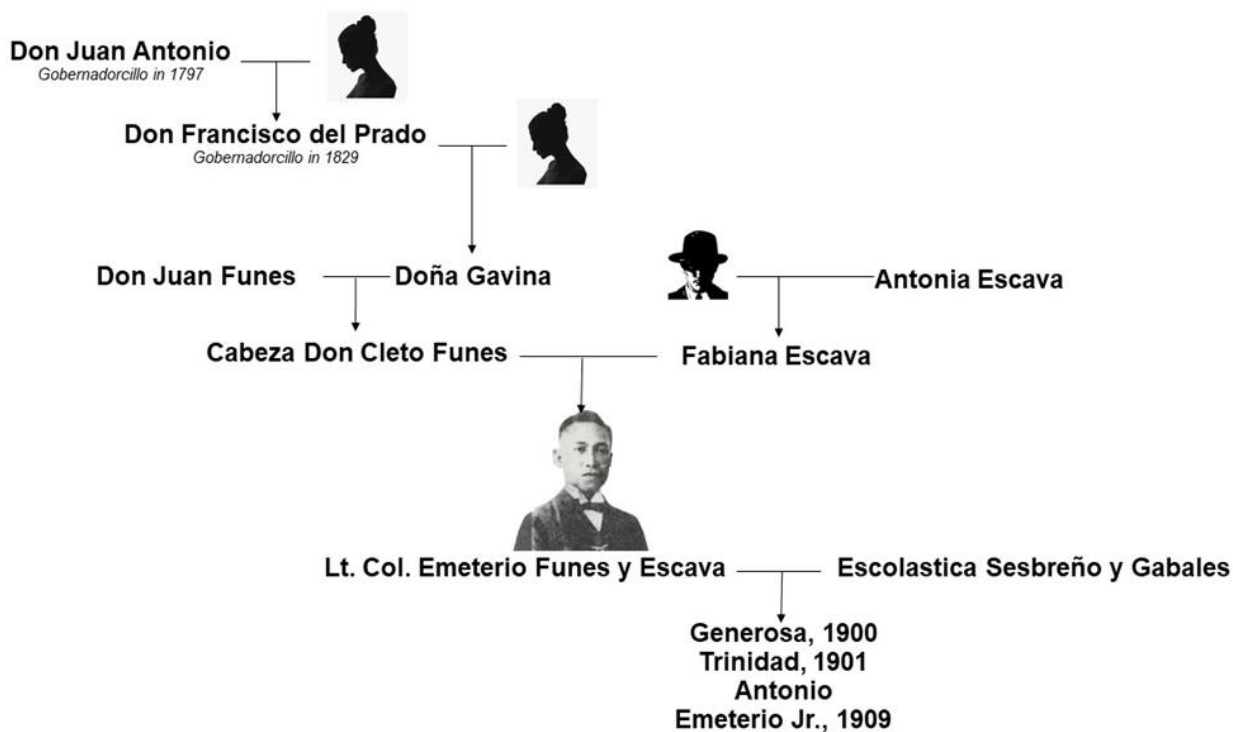


Figure 2. Family Tree of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava

### Contribution of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava

The contributions of Lt. Col. Funes were to inspire his fellow men to fight for freedom and his selfless acts that showed willingness to sacrifice. His life story will always be part of the local history of the Province of Sorsogon that must be remembered and recognized by Sorsoganon. His life story proved the manifestation of his contribution that allows people in today’s generation to be in the call of duty when freedom is at stake.



Where there is a man like Funes who stood up with bravery against American invaders. There were certain roads and camps in the province named after him as a manifestation of his contributions that allowed him to be known and remembered by Sorsoganons. The street was named after Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes Sr. St., located at Barangay Madlawon Bulusan, Sorsogon which was authorized through the Resolution No. 35 s. 1980 in the Sangguniang Bayan of Bulusan, Sorsogon. Likewise, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan has also honored him by changing the name of Camp Fabilane to Camp Col. Emeterio E. Funes in Madan-an, Brgy. Bibinchan, Sorsogon City through Resolution No. 91-2020 duly referred from the Sangguniang Bayan of Bulusan and respectfully honored by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan through Resolution No. Resolution No. 69-2021. Furthermore, to stress out the contributions of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes the researcher had narrated his story during the Philippine-American war.



Figure 3. Col. Emeterio Funes Street in Brgy. Madlawon and Poctol in Bulusan Sorsogon

For almost 333 years, the Philippines was colonized by Spain from 1565 until 1898. Their colonization of the country ended when Spain and the United States of America signed their Treaty of Paris in 1898, which would end the long year of war and hostilities between America and Spain. In the treaty, both parties agreed to sell the Spanish Colonies to the United States, including Cuba, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines, to which the latter was ceded for 20 million dollars. However, since 1896, the Philippine revolutionaries had been fighting for independence from Spanish colonial control, and news that the United States would take over as colonial new masters was unfavorable to many Filipinos. In 1899, the First Philippine Republic declared independence and created a constitutional government, which was considered an act of insurgency by American



military leaders. The Philippine-American War broke out later that year when the Republic declared war on the United States.

Consequently, the war between Filipinos and American colonizers broke out not only in the capital region of the country but also reached some parts of the Philippines, including the Sorsogon province. According to Totanes (1990), on January 20, 1900, the Americans, the new colonial masters, arrived in Sorsogon, commanded by Brigadier General William Kobbe, on instructions from Gen. Elwell Otis, military governor of the Philippines, on board the cruiser Nashville and the gunboats Helena and Mariveles. Also, Dery (1991) added that the American forces occupied Sorsogon and established military troops stationed in the towns of Gubat, Bulan, and Donsol. While the Americans were slowly invading the province, the politico-military governor, Lt. Col. Amando Airan, chose to withdraw from the fight against these new invaders.

In the (unpublished) manuscript written by Emeterio Funes Jr., Lt. Col. Airan gave up the province to the Americans, so General Vito Belarmino immediately appointed Victorio Gratela as the commander of the revolutionary military operation in the whole province of Sorsogon. He organized the military forces, but sadly, he had ineffective planning in organizing the forces against the Americans. Due to the lack of response from Captain Gratela, Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava discusses with General Belarmino the unfavorable situation of Sorsogon. Ataviado (1999) stated that Lt. Col. Funes was a nationalist who served under the command of Gen. Miguel Malvar in Batangas. Therefore, Lt. Col. Funes presented himself in Malobago, Albay, and was appointed as politico-military governor with the power to name provincial officials under his leadership and assure the support of his fellow men. Afterward, according to Funes Jr.'s (unpublished) manuscript, Lt. Col. Funes landed in Sta. Magdalena, Sorsogon, and he were warmly welcomed by the cheers of people on the Sunday morning of March 1900. After his arrival, he immediately organized a revolutionary force in Bulusan and Gubat. He also appointed prominent leaders named Captain Juan Fortades and Captain Eustaquio Diaz to form alliances and invite people to join their forces against the Americans.

Funes Jr. mentioned also that Lt. Col. Funes divided the province into two zones. The north zone, which included the municipalities of Castilla, Bacon, Prieto Diaz, Gubat, and Barcelona, was under his command. On the other hand, the south zone included the municipalities of Magallanes, Bulan, Irosin, Bulusan, Sta Magdalena and Matnog. Bulusan was under the control of Captain Eustaquio Diaz, the Irosin-Bulan section was under the command of Captain Zacarias Conspecto, and the Matnog-Sta. Magdalena's section was under the command of Captain Victorio Gratela. The municipalities of Pilar and Donsol were under the command of General Belarmino.

After organizing military officers in the province, Dr. Bernardino Monreal had a conference with Col. Arcadio Gisala as chairman, Leoncio Grajo, Mario Guarina, Eugenio Guardian, and Domiciano Canu as members to confer with Col. Funes on what action should be taken to resist the occupation of Americans which was held in the church of the

barrio of Fabrica in the municipality of Barcelona. Dery (1991) narrated that at the end of the conference of revolutionary forces and local leaders, Juban requested that they not be involved in any military activity to avoid suspicion from the Americans that the latter were linked to the revolutionary cause. Both parties were considered to have properly adhered to the agreement. They only agreed to take charge of logistics and funds together with the municipalities of Casiguran. Afterward, according to Ataviado (1999), Lt. Col. Funes formed his first group of guerilla soldiers, artillerymen, and their officers, then proceeded to Barrio Japi (Jupi) in Gubat where he established their headquarters, and in Barrio Cabradola, Barcelona to organize their forces

Dery (1991) stated that the revolutionary forces headed by Lt. Col. Funes had sustained their resistance because of his effective guerilla warfare that the Americans had difficulty in invading the southern part of Sorsogon unless they had a lot of soldiers to bring. Unfortunately, Gubat, Matnog, and Banuang Gurang Donsol became the battleground for some encounters between Sorsoganon fighters and American forces. In March 1900, the group of Lt. Col. Funes attacked the town of Gubat and burned part of the town to drive away their enemies in the town. However, they failed because of their insufficient firepower, having nine (9) rifles only, and the rest were bolts or arrows. Along with the attacks in Gubat, the revolutionary leader also sent an attacking force to Bacon to execute the American allied town president. Similarly, they failed because the one who was tasked to execute the important part of the plan had been disclosed to the enemies by some of its collaborators.

Nevertheless, they not only suffered failures but also somehow experienced victory. In fact, according to the manuscript written by Emeterio Funes Jr., the victorious battle led by Lt. Col. Funes was the battle at Buko Pass in Bulusan on April 25, 1900. American forces attack about nine o'clock in the morning with superior weapons. However, with determination, strength, and strategic planning, where they had a strategic location, the Americans were ordered to retreat after four hours of battle. It ended up with one American lieutenant dead and two (2) soldiers wounded. On the defender side, two soldiers were wounded.

Moreover, Dery (1991) stated that the American forces once again attacked after two weeks with greater firepower and cannon to Colonel Funes' hideout on May 26, 1900, while everybody was preparing for the formal inauguration of Lt.Col. Funes as the military governor of Sorsogon. Interestingly, the revolutionary forces once again prevented the Americans from capturing them. However, according to Funes Jr., the encounter once again caused greater casualties among the revolutionary forces, which decided to retreat with two soldiers killed. Americans continuously bring fear not only to the defender but also among civilians. On the same day, due to the frustrations of the Americans, because they failed to overcome Lt. Col Funes's resistance, they burned the town of Bulusan instead. Particularly in Riroan, Dancalan, and some other parts of the Bulusan River, people were surprised when they saw devastation when their town was burned, and they immediately ran to the mountain to find shelter and security. Only seven (7) small huts

remained, but they did not escape the fate of the others when the Americans came back the following month and proceeded to San Francisco and San Jose, setting fire to every house they saw.

After several months, according to Dery (1991), Lt. Col. Funes' forces attacked the Americans in November 1900, the first Sunday of the month, where Don Emeterio Serrano and Don Celestino Mercader, allies of the revolutionary forces, were invited to attend the wedding in Casiguran. So, they also invited the American officials to the wedding, who in turn agreed to their invitation. At night, while the wedding feast was in progress, the revolutionary forces headed by Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes surrounded the venue where the celebration was being held. So, the visitors panicked while the American officials remained calm but prepared to shoot anytime. Fortunately, the host of the event, Don Benito de Leon had intervened and mediated between the two forces. Surprisingly, the American forces agreed to talk to Lt. Col. Funes' emissaries, who eventually agreed to have a truce in the province until the end of the presidential election in America.

Dery (1991) mentioned that along with the reelection of President McKinley, the American soldiers in the province intensified their campaign against the revolutionary forces to end the resistance in the province of Sorsogon. In fact, on November 21, 1900, the headquarters of Lt. Col. Funes was attacked by 100 American soldiers, but the revolutionary forces still defended themselves against the enemies. On December 6, the American authorities implemented a curfew from 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM to restrict the movements of the Sorsoganons. On December 18, the American officials doubled their number to 250 soldiers and divided them into four (4) detachments to attack the revolutionary forces in their hideouts, but still, they failed to end the resistance of Lt. Col. Funes's forces.

Furthermore, Funes Jr. narrated the surrender of Lt. Col. Funes, and according to him, the effect of the resistance in the province affected the lives of almost all Sorsoganons. The prolonged conflict already prevented the supply of food and necessities, so the people already showed their sentiments to restore peace and order in the province. For almost a year of resisting the American forces, people were eager to attain peace in the province. Partido Federal and Municipal President, Captain Rufino Gerona, organized a commission to communicate with Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes to settle down the hostilities and take the oath of alliance to American forces on February 15, 1901. One of the reasons why Captain Rufino Gerona organized a committee is the devastation and suffering of the people due to the continuous burning of their properties and imprisonment of innocent civilians. The committee was composed of Captain Rufino Gerona, Atanacio Morato, Don Justo Loilom Don Hermogenes Gullaba, Don Eugenio Obsum, Don Sixto Gocoyo, Don Francisco Bermudes, Don Laurente Grafilo and some are the barrio "tenientes" as a member. It aimed to confer with the revolutionary forces and induce them to cease their hostilities against the American authorities with the promise of the security of their lives and properties.

The committee contacted Captain Charles C. Maclain of the 47th Infantry United States Volunteer (U.S.V), who was a Post Commander of Bulan, and explained the purpose of their committee. Hence, Captain Maclain ordered the 2nd Lt. Disque of Company B to escort the commission to Irosin. The party left Bulan at 8 A.M. on horseback with a detachment of 22 enlisted men and one private personnel of the hospital Corps, arriving in Irosin at 2:00 P. M. the same day.

Afterward, Funes Jr. added that Lt. Disque convoked the Municipal leader of Irosin and ordered him to gather the settlers at the convent. Lt. Disque sent off the letter prepared by Captain Rufino Gerona to Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes, Maj. Victorio Gratela and Capt. Zacarias Conspecto. The letter intentionally encouraged the revolutionary to surrender to American forces. It also emphasizes that it will cause greater destruction of life and property if they continue to resist the superiority of American forces, and it would be a better decision to start restoring peace and order in Sorsogon. Furthermore, it assured that Lt. Col. Funes and his fellow men would be granted an absolute pardon and freedom if they took the oath of allegiance to America. The amount of P30 Mexican money was also given if they surrendered all serviceable rifles to the United States government. The letters were dispatched by civilians, and Captain Rufino Gerona immediately gathered some natives at the convent. They called the attention of the public that they had no sufficient weapons and force to battle against well-armed Americans. It will only cause loss of lives and deprive peace and order in the province. On the same day after they spoke with Lt. Disque through an interpreter, they also talked to the people of Irosin and assured full protection by American troops to all who would take the oath of allegiance to the United States and abide by it. The Municipal leader of Irosin also encouraged his constituent to take the oath of allegiance as he was the first person to voluntarily take the oath to American forces. The entire crowd was ecstatic and shouted that they would all swear the pledge of loyalty to the United States for the approval of the panel and Lt. Disque. Lt. Disque informed Captain Maclain in Bulan that as of 9:00 p.m. that same evening, more than 800 men over 18 years of age had taken their oath of allegiance.

On the 19th and 20th of February 1901, a significant number of natives from the neighboring barrios and “sitios” gathered to take their oath. On the evening of the 20th, a total of 1,073 surrenderees were recorded. Many of those who took the oath stated that they were actual members of the revolutionary army and that they wanted to abandon allegiance to the insurgent government. The rebel group is commanded by Lt. Juan Gabion, a former adviser to Lt. Col. Funes.

On February 20, 1901, in the morning, Lt. Disque received a letter from Lt. Col. Funes. It was stated in the letter that Lt. Col. Funes was willing to surrender, but he wanted to have a conversation with a member of the committee at San Roque to speak to his officers whom he had summoned at his headquarters and had sent out orders to all field commanders to concentrate at San Roque. Lt. Disque promptly entrusted Captain Rufino Gerona with leading his team to San Roque without any military guard other than

native guides. Captain Rufino Gerona was ordered to submit an advance report on the situation's progress and status.

In addition, Lt. Disque received word from Capitan Rufino Gerona early on February 21 that Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes, the insurgent governor of Sorsogon and the Supreme Commander of the province Revolutionary Forces, would arrive in Irosin with his whole army to surrender at 4 p.m. on the same day. Soon after 4 p.m. Lt. Disque and his squad had already arrived at the church yard around 4 p.m. Three rifle volleys were fired in tribute by the militants. He mounted his horse and rode over to greet them. After greeting Col. Funes, he told him that his whole army would cross through the churchyard and then line up. He then rejoined his group and instructed them to surrender their rifles. Furthermore, Lt. Col. Funes then told Lt. Disque that he was willing to hand up his whole command and swear loyalty to the United States but that he planned to attend the Bulan commemoration of Washington's birthday and asked that they retain their guns until they were in Bulan. Lt. Disque agreed to his request but stated that he would list all weapons and ammunition. Capt. Rufino Gerona informed Lt. Disque that they would be in Bulan to welcome the surrender of Lt. Col. Funes and his men. They were accompanied by only one American soldier who was carrying a message of Lt. Disque to Captain MacLain, arriving in Bulan around 8 P.M. In the evening in Irosin, all the forces of Col. Funes took the oath of allegiance to the United States together with a total number of 34 insurgent forces. High-ranking officers include Lt. Col. Funes, Maj. Domingo Espigol, Maj. Gratela, Maj. Esteban Fulay and Maj. Eustaquio Diaz. The other officer consisted of 10 captains, nine 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenants, nine 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenants, and one chaplain. The force was composed of 23 riflemen and 113 bolomen. Col. Funes certified that the surrender of February 21, 1901, included all armed forces in the field. The next morning at 7:00 a.m. on February 22, the entire forces, the detachment of Company B and the Revolutionary Army, prepared to return to Bulan.

After being a revolutionary leader, he decided to go back to his hometown and do his responsibility as a citizen and as a father. Mr. Tan said that *“he [Lt. Col. Funes] continues to work on his parcel of land and oversee that are in the care of tenants. He also worked on the Roman Catholic Church in their appeal to the United States for compensation for the damage caused to the town’s church, rectories, and visita”*. Further, the promise of peace and order is somehow enforced and established in the province. The Sorsogon Museum Curator, Mr. Dio, stated that *“there is a possibility that the promise of American freedoms was fulfilled, as there was no recorded event after the surrender of Col. Funes with Americans”*. After a year of living a normal life, Lt Col. Funes died of tuberculosis on June 2, 1909, at the age of 39. His body was buried in the old cemetery of Barangay Sabang, Bulusan, Sorsogon.

Mr. Tan said that, *“Lt. Col. Funes decided to surrender after seeing how the war had impacted his hometown and other towns in the province. Bulusan suffered major casualties during the Philippine-American War. Its beautiful church and rectory were burned. Its old houses were reduced to ashes. Some historians called it people “getting weary of the war”*. Mr. Dio also said, *“They surrendered for peace, but Lt. Col. Funes proved that they were*

able to defend Sorsogon from the Americans, and it was successful because Col.'s group became a big challenge to the American forces". Mrs. Belleza states that "*Kinontak nila si Lt. Col. Funes para maki isa na rin sa kanila kasi marami, siya nalang ang natitira na ayaw sanang sumuko*" (They contacted Lt. Col. Funes to join them because he is the only one who don't want to surrender). This implies that the surrender of Lt. Col. Funes doesn't mean losing hope and a sign of weakness but strength and victory for the sake of peace and to think about security without further casualties and destruction of properties. Thus, he was a leader who prioritized the welfare of his people. Mr. Tan also stated that "*the surrender signifies that they had proven that even if they have less superior firepower, Filipinos can [still] wage an effective resistance*". Likewise, Rajilun (2019), history has a significant impact to the current society. Events and characters that a significant person has shown must serve as references in a new and next generation. Thus, teaching histories will allow people to acquire moral values and appreciate their sacrifices to promote a sense of nationalism and patriotism.

This indicates that Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes contributed in a way of igniting the spirit of nationalism and patriotism by leading the revolutionary forces in Sorsogon against Americans. His leadership became an inspiration among fellow Sorsoganon about his responsibilities to defend their land. Ataviano (1999) stated that Col. Funes is deeply saddened by the mere intrusion of Americans who seem to have broken into his own home. This clearly explains that he had empathy and love for his people and the country because he does not only think about his security, but he understands, listens, and addresses the suffering of his fellow men. His love for our country became a burning torch in shaping our identity on who and what we are as a Sorsoganon and a Filipino. Furthermore, his story greatly contributes in a way that inculcates moral values of bravery and encouragement which the new and next generation should realize to deal with today's social issues. Mr. Dio further explained, "He [Lt. Col. Funes] had the most defining characteristics of a hero, including bravery, moral integrity, courage, conviction, honesty, willingness to protect others, *and self-sacrificing*". This indicates that he has influenced people with his good character, takes the sake of the majority, and possesses selflessness. He serves with his strength, love, and perseverance rather than aiming for entitlement. Indeed, Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava is a leader as he exemplified the criterion of serving. Thus, he is capable of leading and bringing significant contributions that shape the local history and identity of Sorsogon.

## **The perception of the various sectors to Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava.**

### **Local Government Unit**

The Committee Chairperson on Culture and the Arts of the Sangguniang Bayan of the LGU of Bulusan, Dr. Lorenzo F. De Castro, perceived Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava as a hero of Bulusan. With the effort of Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Sorsogon in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the 10th Provincial Board on February 3, 2020, provided Resolution No. 62 s. 2020, entitled "Resolution Endorsing to the Local Government Unit of Bulusan,



Sorsogon the conduct of an Investigative Research on the life and background of the late Colonel Emeterio Funes y Escava as a High Ranking Official of the Revolutionary Movement” stated that LGU of Bulusan to conduct an in-depth investigation and research about the life story of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava as the high ranking official of the revolutionary movement in Sorsogon during American colonization. Likewise, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (2011) encourages intensified research and development in the area of local histories and unsung personalities who have exemplified stewardship in the country. This implies that the Provincial Government of Sorsogon and LGU Bulusan is committed to empowering and increasing people’s awareness about the historical identity of Sorsogon in a way of recognizing the heroism and leadership of some prominent leaders including the story of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava. Dr. De Castro also said that *“Lt. Col. Funes is giving space by declaring him as a local hero with ordinance but still on the fill for further deliberations. We’re in a move to forward his heroism before Congress to declare him a hero”*. One of the respondents also said, *“With the help of written history, archival records, and published articles not only in the locality but in the national history, the recognition of Col. Funes became possible. All these are validated and verified”*. This implies that declaring Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes as a local hero could be possible to honor for his sacrifice and greatness for the country. Heroes are not born but chosen by society among men deserving of esteem, admiration, and emulation (Goethals & Allison, 2012). There must be public acclamation and pronouncement of their contributions to society. Furthermore, Dr. De Castro added that *“One way of recognizing Lt. Col. Funes as the local hero of Bulusan is honoring him by naming a municipal road in his name provided in Resolution No. 35 s. 1980”*. The Sangguniang Panlalawigan has also honored him by changing the name of Camp Fabilane to Camp Col. Emeterio E. Funes in Madan-an, Brgy. Bibincahan, Sorsogon City that was inaugurated on November 2021, through Resolution No.91-2020 from the Sangguniang Bayan of Bulusan entitled as a *“Resolution favorably endorsing to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Sorsogon the request of the 505th Sorsogon Center 5th Regional Community Defense Group Arescom Camp Lt. Domingo F Fabilane”*. Brgy Balogo Sorsogon City to use the name of the Late Col. Emeterio Escava Funes on the new site of a military camp located at Sitio Madan-an, Brgy. Bibincahan, Sorsogon City”, to honor his heroism as Bulusan’s unsung hero and military governor leading the revolutionary forces during the American Filipino in the year 1900. The resolution was endorsed by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to the then Secretary of the Department of National Defense, Delfin N. Lorenzana through Resolution No. 69-2021 or the *“Resolution Endorsing to Secretary N. Lorenzana of the Department of National Defense for Support, Bulusan Resolution No. 91-2020.”* This signifies the importance of the collaboration of LGU and Sangguniang Panlalawigan in honoring Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava. Moreover, Doyle and Johanson (2006) stated that people must promote history-related events and activities, visit historical landmarks and museums, watch historical or cultural films, and commemorate to ignite historical consciousness in the province of Sorsogon.

## Military Sector

Ronnel M. Malle, the operation officer of Camp Col. Emeterio Funes, said that *“nailalarawan ko siya (Lt. Col Emeterio Funes y Escava) bilang isang Sorsoganon, na ipinaglaban ang sariling lupa o sariling bayan. So, kung baga, iyong pagiging patriotism saka nationalism nya, ipinamahagi niya sa mga Pilipino at Sorsoganon kaya nga umaklas siya para lang ipaglaban’ yong ating bayan”*. (I can describe him as a Sorsoganon who defended our own land or nation. He shows the spirit of patriotism and nationalism which influence Filipino to fight for our land). This implies that Lt. Col Emeterio Funes y Escava portrait great leadership who influenced and lead his people to defend their own land from the foreign invader. He also value patriotism and nationalism as a Filipino and Sorsoganon which became his source of strength to build revolutionary forces in Sorsogon. He also added, *“Hindi lang sya yung tinatawag na dahil voluntary syang lumaban, bagkus, ito ay responsibilidad ng bawat Pilipino para lumaban at ipagtanggol ang bayan. Yang ang mayroon kay Funes noong mga panahong iyon dahil kung wala sya, siguro wala ding umaklas na ibang Pilipino”* (He did not only prove to voluntarily defend own land, but he proved that it must be the responsibility of every Filipino. That is what Funes exemplified during that time. Probably, without him, there will be no Filipino that will revolutionize against the colonizer). This indicates that life story of Lt. Col Emeterio Funes y Escava reminds that every Filipino must be responsible in defending and governing the Philippines. He became a role model who contributes admirable social values such as a spirit of voluntarism towards the realization of our identity. Furthermore, Malle also emphasizes that *“kailangan mong alamin ang kasaysayan para sa susunod na henerasyon, ay malaman nila kung paano nila ipreserve ang kasarinlan ng isang bayan o ng isang lugar. Kasi kung hindi mo pag aralan iyong istorya, for sure, maraming hindi nakakaalam sa kasaysayan tulad ngayon kaya maraming Pilipino ang nawawala na ang patriotism at nationalism. Ang kanyang story at contribution ay buhayin at ipakilala niya kung ano ka bilang isang Pilipino dapat”* (We need to study the history to preserve the stories and identity of our land into the next generation. If we do not have knowledge about our history, there will be no history to tell in the next generation. This is the reason why many Filipino lost patriotism and nationalism. The story and contribution of Funes is to revive and remind what must be the Filipinos are). These suggest that Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava took a huge role in shaping our local history, identity, and the attainment of our freedom from the colonizer. These also remind us as Filipino, we must value our history, particularly the local history to foster nationalism and patriotism in the present and passing the stories and legacy of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava to the future generation.

Moreover Mr. Malle said that *“Marami na ang naipangalan sa iba't ibang military camps tulad ng Camp Aguinaldo, Bonifacio, Camp Sakay. So, marami ang names ng military camps and contributors during the first, second and the cold war”*. This proves that the military sector had already honored some notable individuals who had made great contributions to the country by giving their names to a military camp. This is one of the means of recognizing and exhibiting their bravery to defend our land and serve as an inspiration among military soldiers and even every Filipino.

He further discussed that *“The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Sorsogon was already recommended and endorsed by the office of the Governor Chiz Escudero and already confirmed of the office of Sorsogon forwarded to the Department of National Defense for proposal for the renaming of former camp Fabilane to camp Col. Funes.”* This indicates that the military sector took steps toward the recognition of the heroic deeds of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes in the province of Sorsogon. This serves as a significant action of the said sector, enable to share and inspire the story of defying the colonizer and preserving local history. Mr. Malle also stated that *“hindi pa sya nabibigyan ng proper recognition. Hinihintay naming yung approved confirmation from the Historical Commission. Sa ngayon, wala tayong ibang nahahanap na data kung dapat ba si Funes ang irerecognized nating hero kasi until now hindi pa naman siya denideclare as Provincial Hero. Kasi nga maraming requirement ito para maideclara bilang isang hero. Sa ngayon, talagang kulang kulang pa talaga ang data na mayroon si Funes para ideclare sya as provincial hero based on the requirement of the Historical Commision ”.* (Currently, Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava has not yet received any proper recognition because we are still waiting for confirmation from the National Historical Commission of the Philippines. Data is still limited that will prove that Lt. Col. Funes deserves to be declared as Provincial Hero. Additionally, there are ample requirements in declaring someone as a hero. As of now, the data of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava is still insufficient to comply with the requirements of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines). This indicates that there must be extensive research about the life story of Lt. Col. Funes a revolutionary leader, to be declared by the proper authorities as the Provincial Hero of Sorsogon. The recognition for Lt. Col. Funes will not only give honor to his family but also give Sorsoganon a higher level of historical consciousness on how Sorsogon is defended by local leaders. Similarly, NCCA (2021), created a research agenda that intensified the importance of local histories. The study aims to patronize the identity of one's community, foster a profound understanding elevate the level of acknowledgment towards historical narratives, and encourage young individuals to safeguard and preserve the local history.

## **Education**

All the key informants' teachers who are knowledgeable about the life story of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava, considered him as the Bulusan's unsung hero as he fought and became the politico-military governor of Sorsogon who led the revolution against the American colonizer. Mrs. Fortes, a local Araling Panlipunan teacher in Bulusan said that *“yung pagkakaalam ko kay Col. Emeterio Funes, maituturing syang isang bayani ng Bulusan, pero hindi sya na-iproklama o walang formal recognition na ibinigay sa kanya bilang isang bayani. So, hindi siya katulad ng ibang mga bayani na nailathala or nabigyan ng recognition bilang bayani ng bansa. Pero, napakalaki ng nagawa ni Emeterio Funes sa Bayan ng Bulusan kasi yung pangunguna nya sa rebolusyon or grupo para labanan ang pamamahala ng mga Amerikano.”* (My knowledge about Col. Emeterio Funes is that he can be considered as a hero of Bulusan, but he has not been proclaimed or no formal recognition given to him as a hero. So, he is not like other heroes who have been published or given recognition like the national heroes have. But Emeterio Funes has done a lot in the Town of Bulusan

because he led the revolution to fight the rule of the Americans). Likewise, Mrs. Gamos, a local Araling Panlipunan teacher in Gubat stated that *“Col Funes was one of the brave soldiers who fought against Spanish/ Americans.”* This implies that educators have the basic knowledge of Lt. Col. Funes as a person who had an important role in history. However, despite his vital role and contributions still he is not recognized by many, for his heroic deeds were not publicly announced and his life was not given the spotlight to be known and shared in schools unlike the others. Typically, in the Philippines, local heroes are unrecognized at first (Mabbayad, 2015). Hence, this paper reiterated that there are a lot of unrecognized individuals with their untold stories that need to be told. Many people who deserve more recognition but have received little have been known in their own local history.

Consequently, Mrs. Fortes said that *“Para saakin si Col. Emeterio Funes ay isang dakilang Bulusanon, kasi mahirap yung ginawa nyang maging lider sa pakikipaglaban, lalo’t pang makapangyarihang sundalo na ang armas ay mas dekalidad. So, ganoon pa man ay pinamunuan parin niya ang hukbo ng Bulusan laban sa sa mga Amerikano. Malaki ang naging kontribusyon nya sa Bulusan.”* (For me Col. Emeterio Funes is a great Bulusanon, because it was difficult for him to be a leader in a fight in which enemies have advanced weapons. Even so, he still managed to lead the revolutionary forces against the Americans. So, he made a great contribution to Bulusan). Likewise, Mrs. Gamos said that *“he (Funes) was a brave soldier that fight for freedom knowing that his opponents are strong.”* This implies that educator perceived Lt. Col. Funes as a man who established strong leadership as he has shown bravery and selfless act who is willing to sacrifice himself just for the sake of others. Likewise, Cherry (2024), a good leader could be someone who has a sense of empathy to understand and put themselves in the same situation as others. These are individuals who are concerned with the needs and welfare of people and being able to exemplify leadership who have an endeavor to achieve the goal even if there’s a lot of factors that hinder it. These are individuals who have the self-confidence to show their capabilities and bravery in a risky situation to foster greater goods.

However, despite of their basic knowledge about Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes, key informants have not yet integrated him on their discussions except for Mrs. Fortes who said that *“So far, medyo limited lang talaga yung alam ko kay Col. Emeterio Funes kasi sa mga time na nagtuturo ako ng araling panlipunan, yung mga nakalipas na taon hindi naman talaga iniintegrate yung mga for example mga lokal na mga heroes.”* (So far, I only have a little knowledge about Col. Emeterio Funes because when I’m teaching Araling Panlipunan, local heroes were not integrated for so many years). It implies that the integration of the localized topics depends on the implemented curriculum in the educational sector, particularly in the Department of Education. However, she added *“So, kung ano yung nasa batayang aklat ay yun ang ginagamit so may mga taon lang siguro mga 5-years ago na nagkaroon ng pagbabago sa curriculum na kung saan pwede na humanap ng mga ibang sources para medyo mapalawak ang kaalaman lalo na yung tinatawag na mga localized topics, na kung saan talaga yun talaga ang dapat na malaman muna ng mga studyante bago yung mga sa ibang lugar. So, doon bilang isang guro ay kaylangang*

*maghanap ng local sources. Ngayon palang, ngayong taon palang na kung saan ay ginamit ko ito bilang kagamitan or instructional materials o kagamitang panturo sa Senior High School. Siguro last year ay nagamit ko siya, nag research ako ng mga mahahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa buhay niya. Tapos dinagdag sa Pangunahing babasahin, kasi alam ko naman na dapat talagang malaman ito ng mga studyante”.* (So, whatever was in the textbook is what is used so there were only years, maybe about 5-years ago that there was a change in the curriculum that allowed you to find other sources to expand the knowledge a bit, especially the so-called localized topics, which is what students should know first before those in other places. So, that's where it all started that the teacher should look for local sources. Hence, this year I used it as instructional materials in Senior High School. Maybe last year I used him, I researched important information about his life. Then it was added to the main reading because I knew that students should really know about it). It means that due to the changes in the curriculum in 2013, it offers more opportunity to allow local topics or sources to be used in the discussion by making localized learning materials. Hence, the K to12 curriculum emphasized the delivery of the lessons using contextualization and localization. The section 10.2 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Republic Act 10533 stated that:

*“Curriculum shall be contextualized and be flexible enough to enable and allow schools to localize and enhance the curriculum based on their respective educational and social contexts.”*

Likewise, Ocampo (2022) highlighted that the students must first learn the history of their locality before learning the wider scope of national history and acknowledge their local heroes before others so that they can build their foundations and knowledge of history.

Moreover, key informants reiterated that it is important to study the life of Lt. Col. Funes because he is a role model for all the young generations to fight for what is right and get inspired to make themselves a valuable member of the society. Mrs. Fortes said that *“So, dapat rin na makilala at sa pagtuturo lamang sa mga estudyante magiging pamilyar ang buhay ni Col. Emeterio Funes, kasi hindi sapat na mabasa lang sa mga magazine or sa kung saan pamang pwedeng ilathala ang tungkol sa buhay ni Col. Emeterio Funes, kaya ang pinakamabisa talaga na paraan para maging pamilyar at makilala at malaman ng mga kabataan sa kasalukuyang panahon ang kadakilaang nagawa ni Col. Emeterio Funes ay sa pamaraan ng pagtuturo sa kanila or sa integrasyon sa mga paksa sa Araling Panlipunan.”* (So, he [Funes] should also be recognized and only by teaching his life will be familiar to the students, because it is not enough to just read his life on magazines or wherever you can publish documents about him. Hence, the most effective way for the youth in the present time to become acquainted and know the greatness of Col. Emeterio Funes is in the way of teaching them or in the integration of topics in Social Studies.) This means that the Life story of Lt. Col. Funes should be integrated in the discussion on Social Studies subject particularly in the fourth quarter topics of Araling Panlipunan 7 which is the *“Ang Silangan at Timog-Silangang Asya sa Transisyonal at Makabagong Panahon (ika-16 hanggang ika-20*

siglo).” Correspondingly, it can be integrated in the first quarter of Araling Panlipunan 6 in elementary level with the topic “Kinalalagyan Ng Pilipinas at Ang Malayang Kaisipan Sa Mundo,” particularly on its sub-topic “Panghihimasok ng Amerikano,” in which offers opportunity for educators to integrate the life story of Lt. Col. Funes in the discussion. Hence, Oguzhan (2015), stated that incorporating local history within social studies improves student understanding of local history and promotes an encouraging attitude toward social life. It reveals that it will be a means to value a country's cultural and historical knowledge. Inclusiveness of local history into students' education is crucial in establishing historical engagement which will allow them to learn about the identity of their own region. It also helps students develop historical empathy that gives an opportunity to have a better understanding of the present status where they live.

Moreover, Mrs. Fulleros a teacher in Bulusan stated that *“Mahalagang pag-aralan ang buhay ni Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes upang maikintal sa isipan ng mga bagong henerasyon ang kabayanihang ginawa ni Col. Funes at magsilbing huwaran sa mga tao ang ginawa ni Col. Funes na ibuwis ang kanyang buhay para sa bayan”* (It is important to study the life of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes to instill in the minds of new generations his heroism and serve as a role model to the people what Col. Funes did to lay down his life for the country). This implies that Lt. Col. Funes was a remarkable leader whose life can inspire others to fight for what is right for the country. Likewise, Mrs. Gamos said that it is important to know and share the life of great people like Lt. Col. Funes for us to be inspired by his bravery to fight for our freedom no matter what it takes. Further, according to Mr. Halnin, a local teacher in Bulusan, it is important to know the life of Lt. Col. Funes because he is an example of how someone from a relatively small town can make his voice heard and can influence people with his leadership. This means that Lt. Col. Funes, despite having a strong opponent, still managed to fight for their freedom and influence others through his selfless and undoubtedly extraordinary leadership. Similarly, the study of Bernados et al. (2016), also focused on the Life of the extraordinary life of the legendary Lapu-Lapu, who exerted authority and influence. In the context of Bernados and colleagues' (2016) study, Lapu-Lapu exemplified heroism by performing beyond character and leadership during the Spanish conquest of the Philippines to defend his homeland. The study revived the story of how Lapu-Lapu established his power and managed his people with great intelligence. This reminds people of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes, who also performs an extraordinary character and leadership that everyone should know and learn from so that Sorsoganon will not only be proud of who Funes was but also remind people to fight for their rights and freedom no matter how hard it is.

### **Local Organization**

The Bulusan Historical and Cultural Society Inc. is an accredited organizational institution in Bulusan, Sorsogon, that aims to preserve and cultivate Bulusan culture and history. The said organization confirmed that they had already honored some notable persons due to their contribution to freedom and independence in the Municipality of Bulusan. One of these was Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava, who is the foremost



Bulusan's local unsung hero, as he played one of the significant roles in resisting the American forces. Moreover, Bulusan Historical and Cultural Society Inc. perceived that Lt. Col. Funes deserves to become the local hero of Bulusan and the whole province as well, and his story must be shared and impart in the lives of every Sorsoganon. Furthermore, Funtecha (2008) denoted that local history is the best representation of people's experiences, goals, and identity. It is the embodiment of the past, which includes the political, economic, social, and cultural aspects that are deeply rooted in the minds and hearts of individuals in the community. In which the Life Story of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes was part of the Local history not only of the Municipality of Bulusan but of the Province of Sorsogon. His life story represents people's experiences and struggles which serves as an identity to everyone that Sorsoganons are willing to fight for the sake of their native land.

### **Local Folks**

All the key informants are currently residing in Bulusan Sorsogon, who has information about the life of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava. Local folks knew that Lt. Col. Funes was a revolutionary leader who fought bravely against the Americans in Boco Pass, Bulusan. Mr. Gayta said that *“Pag nabati ko ang pangaran niya (Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava), sayo tulos an naluwas sa isip ko an Boco Pass or the Battle of Boco Pass sa Sitio Boco, San Francisco ng nangyari san April 25 1900 na siya an nanguna sa pakilaban kontra sa pwersa sa Amerikano”* (Every time I hear the name Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava, I always think of Boco Pass or the battle of Boco Pass on April 25, 1900 in Sitio Boco, San Francisco). He further discussed that *“Mayon siya sin dako dako na pagmamahal sa kaniya bansa lalong lalo na sa sadiri na bungto. Sa kaniya ko naimod o maikukumpara ko siya sa kahulugan san ngaran sin Bulusan “Bulos” na nagbubulos an kaniya pagmamahal sa sadiring bungto minsan ngani buhay pa nya an maging kapalit”* (He had a huge love for his country particularly in his own native land. He symbolizes the true meaning of “Bulos” (Bulos means overflowing) wherein, he had an overflowing love for his own land that he can even sacrifice his own life). Mr. Forache also said that *“Talagang siya, pwedeng matawag na hero, kay maski ngani kulang tawohan siya, nakipaglaban siya sa overmen na kalaban”* (He can be considered as a hero even though he has limited number of forces, he still fought against a strong force of Americans). This implies that the life of Lt.Col. Funes leaves a remarkable message and stories of showing love, bravery, and heroism for his own land. Years have passed, but his stories are still alive and continuously inspire some local folks with his bravery and leadership against foreign invaders. Mr. Gayta also said that *“Bihira nalang ang nakadumdum lalo na ang bagong bata o sin bago na henerasyon kaya dapat kunta balikan o adalan ang naging buhay ni Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava nan an kaniya ambag sa kalayaan ta sa mga mananakop”* (There were only few people particularly the youth who's knowledgeable about the life story of Lt. Col. Funes that's why it is necessary to commemorate and study his life and contribution for the Sorsogon's freedom from the colonizer). This implies that the local history of Sorsogon must be intensified through the accumulation and recognition of the stories of individuals who shape the historical identity of the province such as Lt. Col. Funes. Likewise, Bage

(2000), local history promotes personal development and self-identity. It contributes to enriching and empowering our past which should be amplified in today's generation. Therefore, it is necessary to appreciate local history to have a higher acquisition of knowledge about our identity and historical backgrounds. Likewise, Mr. Galoso said that *“mao yun dini ang naging tawo sin Bulusan na nakipaglaban sa mga Amerikano na diri nanggad na butangan sin monumento, halos kadaghanan sa mga tawo niyan diri yun narerecognize ang pagkatawo na yuun”*(He is a notable individual that fought against American who have no monument and remains unrecognized by some people of today's generation) This implies that there were only few individual knows about the life story of Lt. Col. Funes which make his stories unsung among Sorsoganon. Additionally, there are only a few actions given to Lt. Col. Funes to amplify his stories and legacy that will drive the interest of the young generation about how he took shape and contributed to the history of Sorsogon province. Likewise, Diño-Seguerra (2021), called the attention of public interest, particularly among the youth sector, to elevate historical consciousness and awareness about unsung heroes.

## **CONCLUSION**

This study testified that Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava possessed leadership which was greatly influenced by his family. Despite his responsibility as a father for his own family he still managed to create a legacy as he fought against the American colonizer. The life of Lt. Col. Funes is a story of triumph and defeat, but it symbolizes what must be a Filipino and Sorsoganon to his land. It is a story that every Sorsoganon should know and reflect upon.

Various sectors are valuing the life story of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes. They perceive him as a role model as he brings pride and honor to Sorsoganon, which exemplifies the characteristics of being a hero. They perceived him as a great leader who was willing to set aside his comfort and sacrifice his own life just for the sake of freedom for his fellow Sorsoganon.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

This study on the life stories of Lt. Col. Emeterio Funes y Escava may aid in raising public knowledge of Sorsogon's unsung heroes and their historical significance. Thus, it will bring much encouragement to everyone to know more about their heritage. Further study about the life and heroism of Lt. Col. Funes should be conducted. On the other hand, to consistently promote local history and honor unsung heroes, extensive research and development collaboration between the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, National Historical Commission of the Philippines, Local Government Unit, and Military Sector is strongly recommended.

## **PRACTICAL OR RESEARCH IMPLICATION**

The life story of Lt. Col. Funes demonstrates the fortitude of a Sorsoganon in that, despite his lack of weaponry against the enemy, he was still able to fight for freedom. This narrative will demonstrate that Sorsoganon were aware of the revolt and identify the province as one of those that opposed the colonial masters. Every Sorsoganon will be inspired to learn more about what it takes to become a Sorsoganon after hearing this narrative, especially the younger ones. It inspires everyone to take a position, raise their voices, and pick up pens to defend what they think is right in this time of challenges.

Moreover, the research will be very helpful to the education sector since it will give a story that can be used to integrate Sorsogon's historical narratives at all levels at school with topics related to the Philippine-American War through Lt. Col. Funes' life story. Students will gain an awareness of their history and heritage through this. Moreover, this study amplifies the call for the Local Government Unit and National Historical Commission of the Philippines to conduct further studies regarding Lt. Col. Funes and other historical personalities in the province of Sorsogon. This calls on the local leaders to support and implement socio-cultural, historical, and civic-related activities. Thus, it fosters patriotism and raises national consciousness while constituting the complex history of the Philippines.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The researchers would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to Ruth Belleza, Jerome Dio, Lorenzo de Castro, Ronnel M. Malle, Ester M. Fortes, Grace Lanie Fulleros, Rebecca Gamos, Hervin Ian H. Halnin, Walter Foraque, Leo Villanueva, Edwin Gayta, Leonor Fresto, Felio Galoso, for sharing their valuable time and information during the conduct of the study. To Bicol University Gubat Campus for the utmost support and opportunity to conduct this study and also to Mr. Abraham Tan and Dr. Stephen Henry S. Totanes for rendering their knowledge, manuscript, and books that are useful to the study. Indeed, this study would not be possible without the help of these people.

## **FUNDING**

The study did not receive funding from any institution.

## ***Conflict of Interest***

The researcher declares no conflict of interest in this study.

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