

ANTONIO L. JAYME
(1854-1937)

Revolutionary, Provincial Governor and Assemblyman

Born on July 24, 1854 in Jaro, Iloilo, Antonio Jayme was the oldest of the seven children of Aguado Jayme and the former Sabina Ledesma, both from Jaro.

While their children were still young, the Jaymes moved to Silay. Through hard work, they were able to develop a tract of land, which they eventually turned into a sugar plantation.

Antonio Jayme had his early education at the Jaro seminary where his uncle, Father Francisco Jayme, was the first rector. He studied philosophy and letters from 1869 to 1871, at the same institution. In 1872, he left for Manila and enrolled at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran. After finishing his *segunda enseñanza* there, he entered the Universidad de Santo Tomas, where he obtained his *licenciado en jurisprudencia* in October 1881.

Jayme began his law practice in Bacolod in 1882. He entered the government service later, serving as justice of the peace and then judge of the Court of First Instance in the province. In 1898, during the second stage of the Philippine Revolution, he played an important role in the surrender of Spanish troops in the province. Upon the formation of the provincial government of Occidental Negros under Aniceto Lacson, he occupied the seat of secretary of justice.

Jayme remained general counselor of the provincial government despite the division in its leadership, which saw one group in favor of American sovereignty and another group against it. Through his tact and good judgment, he was able to prevent clashes and animosities from erupting between them.

In the general elections of 1904, he won as provincial governor over Esteban de la Rama, his strongest opponent.

As governor, Jayme was able to hasten the pacification of the province. He saw to the construction of school building to encourage enrollment, and conducted a campaign against gambling and other vices, as well as against vagrancy and banditry. Under his administration, the political and social conditions in the province improved. He sought remedies to its problems by suggesting modifications in existing laws and the enactment of new ones.

Due to his performance as governor, he was elected representative of the first district of Occidental Negros to the First Philippine Assembly in the general election of 1907. In the Assembly, he served as a member of the committees on provincial and municipal governments, city of Manila, and the revision of laws, and the chairman of the committee on police. He authored a bill, which sought the abolition of capital punishment.

After his tenure as assemblyman, he returned to his private law practice until his eyesight began to fail him.

Early in his professorial life, Jayme taught at the Instituto Rizal. He also wrote articles and was a contributor to the periodicals *La Libertad*, published in Bacolod in 1900, and *La Razon*, which appeared in 1906. He used the following pen names: P. Moral, Farole,

Mansilingan, Panagao, and G.G. He also engaged in agriculture. In fact, he was one of the original directors of the Bacolod-Murcia Sugar Central.

Jayne died on October 9, 1937, leaving behind his wife, the former Genoveva Gamboa, and their four children – Angela, Antonio, Emilia and Carlos.

References:

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