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## The “First Cry”: When and Where

### AUTHOR

#### 1. Who is the author?



Pío Valenzuela y Alejandro born on July 11, 1869 and died on April 6, 1956, he is a Filipino physician and revolutionary leader. He joined the *Katipunan* at the age of 23 that sought the independence movement of the Philippines from *Spanish colonial rule* and started the *Philippine Revolution*. He took charge of the *Katipunan's* first and official publication of “*Ang Kalayaan*”. He was the one who tried to convince Jose Rizal to join the revolutionary movement; however, he was also among those who testified before a court martial against Rizal during the investigation the led to the hero's ultimate death.

#### 2. What type of source is his account?

- As stated, the basis of the official and place of the First Cry were Dr. Pio Valenzuela's, in addition to that, he was an official of *Katipunan* and friend of Andres Bonifacio and was present during the event makes his account a primary source.
- His account was published as *Memoirs of the K.K.K. and the Philippine Revolution*, since he was present during the event he was considered an eyewitness, eyewitness accounts was under the primary source

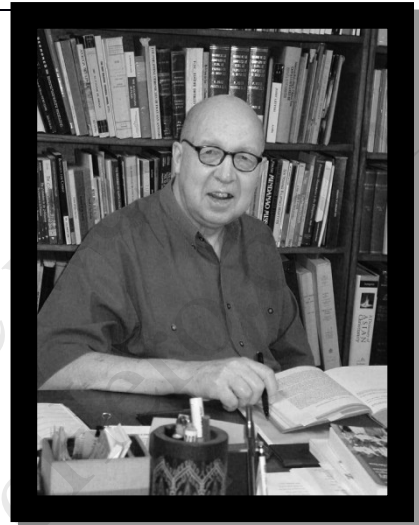
#### 3. Is he credible? Why? Why not?

- According to my research, controversies among the historians still continues to the present day, the “First Cry” cannot be accepted as historically accurate as for it lacks positive documentation and supporting evidence from the witness. Dr. Pio Valenzuelas's (the only eyewitness) testimony is not enough to authenticate and verify a controversial issue in history.
- Dr. Pio Valenzuela is one of the surviving witnesses of the Cry of Pugad Lawin, and this is confirmed by the list drawn up by Guillermo Masangkay (who himself was present). If we are to believe Masangkay, Dr. Valenzuela would be the only doctor participating in the cry. However, it seems that his statements are not consistent. His first statement mentions a “*Katipunan meeting*” happening between August 23 and 25 at Balintawak. His second statement, made some 15 years later, mentions the cry to happen at the house of Apolonio Samson in Kangkong, south of Balintawak, on August 23. His third statement, made another six years later, tells of the cry occurring at the house of Melchora Aquino (also known as Tandang Sora) at Pacpac-Lawin (Pugad Lawin) near

Pasong Tamo, also on August 23. Pugad Lawin is further north of Balintawak. His fourth statement, made before Masangkay and other surviving Katipunan members recalled the event, tells a meeting at Kangkong on August 22, but the cry occurred at the house of Juan Ramos (Melchora Aquino's son) at Pugad Lawin near Bahay Toro the day after, which is August 23. While Valenzuela seems to be firm on the date, August 23, he is apparently uncertain on where the cry actually occurred. As it is, Valenzuela is not known for having impeccable memory. This is demonstrated with his recollections of his meeting with Rizal at Dapitan, months before the launch of the Revolution. His confusing statements threw doubt to the cry itself.

“I would certainly give much less credence to all accounts coming from Pio Valenzuela, and to the interpretations Agoncillo got from him verbally, since Valenzuela gave so many versions from the time he surrendered to the Spanish authorities and made various statements not always compatible with one another up to the time when as an old man he was interviewed by Agoncillo. Pio Valenzuela backtracked on yet another point. In 1896, Valenzuela testified that when the Katipunan consulted Jose Rizal on whether the time had come to revolt, Rizal was vehemently against the revolution. Later, in Agoncillo’s Revolt of the masses, Valenzuela retracted and claimed that Rizal was actually for the uprising, if certain prerequisites were met. Agoncillo reasoned that Valenzuela had lied to save Rizal.”

— John N. Schumacher, S.J, of the Ateneo de Manila University



## CONTENT

### 1. When and where did the first cry happen?

According to Valenzuela’s account, the uprising began on 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 1896 in Pugad Lawin where the Katipuneros led by Bonifacio tore their cedula (resident certificates) and shouted “Long live the Philippines!” (Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!).

### 2. Who were present?

- Juan Ramos (son of Melchora Aquino)
- Over 1000 members of Katipunan
- Enrique Cipriano
- Alfonso Pacheco
- Tomas Remiguo

- Siforoso San Pedro
- Andres Bonifacio
- Emilio Jacinto,
- Procopio Bonifacio
- Teodoro Plata
- Aguedo del Rosario
- Himself, Dr. Pio Valenzuela
- Apolonio Samson
- Briccio Pantas
- Alejandro Santiago
- Ramon Bernardo

### 3. How did it happen? (3-5 scene)

*According to Valenzuela's account*

- Andres Bonifacio, Emilio Jacinto, Procopio Bonifacio, Teodoro Plata and Aguedo del Rosario arrived at the first place of refuge at Balintawak on 19<sup>th</sup> of August 1896, and he arrived on 20<sup>th</sup> of August 1896
- The first place where some 500 members of the Katipunan met on 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 1896 was the house and yard of Apolonio Samson at Kanglong. Asode from the persons mentioned above, among those who were there were Briccio Pantas, Alejandro Santiago, Ramon Bernaárdo, Apolonio Samson, and others. Here, views were only exchanged and no resolution was debated or adopted.
- It was at Pugad Lawin, in the house, store-house and yard of Juan Ramos, son of Melchora Aquino, where over 1,000 memebers of the Katipunan met and carried outconsiderable debate and discussion on 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 1896.
- The Discussion was whether or not the revolution against the Spanish government should be started on 29<sup>th</sup> of August 1896. Only one man protested and fought against a war and that was TeodoroPlata. Besides the persons named aboved, among the present at this meeting were Enrique Cipriano, Alfonso Pacheco, Tomas Remiguo, Siforoso San Pedro, and others. After the tumultuous meeting many of those present tore their cedula and certificates and shouted "Long live the Philippines!"

### 4. Why did it happen?

- This is shortly before a skirmish took place between Katipuneros and the Spanish *guardia civil* (Civil Guard), also dated to be on August 26, 1896 or later. The cry primarily involved the tearing of *cedulas* (tax certificates), and it is supposed to be symbolic of tearing away from the yoke of Spain. Examining Katipunan documents, taxes is one of the paramount issues leading to the Revolution.
  - In my opinion, the first cry happened to achieve the Katipunan's aims, namely:
    - o *to develop a strong alliance with each and every Katipunero*
    - o *to unite Filipinos into one solid nation;*
    - o *to win Philippine independence by means of an armed conflict (or revolution)*
    - o *to establish a republic after independence*
5. **Describe the conditions/circumstances surrounding the event:**
- a. **Physical environment**
  - b. **Physical and emotional conditions of the people**

## References

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