

#### **RESEARCH OUTLINE**

## Greece

## CONTENTS

Introduction	Ι
The Family History Library Catalog	2
Records Selection Table: Greece	3
Maps of Greece	4
Archives and Libraries	6
Biography	7
Cemeteries	8
Census	8
Church Records	9
Civil Registration.	Π
Court Records	13
Directories	13
Emigration and Immigration	14
Encyclopedias and Dictionaries	IS
Gazetteers	16
Genealogy	17
Heraldry	19
Historical Geography	20
History	20
Language and Languages	2 I
Maps	23
Military Records	24
Minorities	25
Names, Personal	27
Naturalization and Citizenship	29
Nobility	29
Notarial Records	30
Periodicals	30
Probate Records.	31
Schools	31
Social Life and Customs	31
Societies	31
Taxation	32
Other Records	32
For Further Reading	32

## INTRODUCTION

This outline can help you find information about people who lived in Greece. It gives information about records of genealogical value for Greece 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. It 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 there 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 section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

GREECE - CENSUS GREECE, [COUNTY] - CENSUS GREECE, [COUNTY], [CITY] - CENSUS

This tells you to look in the catalog under:

- Greece and then the subject CENSUS.
- A county in Greece and then the subject CENSUS.
- A city in a county in Greece and then the subject CENSUS.

This outline includes many references to specific records. The references include call numbers listed in parenthesis. The call number is used to find a record in the Family History Library (FHL). Each book, film, fiche, or map is assigned a call number. For additional information on using the catalog sec 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 parenthesis. They are available at the Family History Library and the Salt Lake City Distribution Center at:

Salt Lake Distribution Center P.O. Box 26368 Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368 Tel. 1-800-537-5971 Fax 1-800-240-3685 Internet: http://www.familysearch.org/

## THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

The key to finding a record in the Family History Librarys collection is the Family History Library Catalog. The catalog describes each of the library's records and lists the call numbers. The catalog is available on microfiche and on compact disc as part of FamilySearchTM, a computer program available at Family History Centers and on the Internet. It is at the Family History Library and at each family history center. It may also be found under "custom search" on the following Internet site:

http://www.familysearch.org

The Family History Library Catalog on microfiche is divided into four sections:

- Locality
- Subject
- Surname
- Author/Title

The Family History Library Catalog on compact disc also has four types of searches:

- Locality Search
- Film Number Search
- Surname Search
- Computer Number Search

To find the call numbers of the records described in this outline, you will most often use the locality section on microfiche or the *locality search* on compact disc. The section headings in this outline that describe types of records, such as "Church Records," are the same as the subjects used in the microfiche edition of the Family History Library Catalog and the topics used in the compact disc edition.

The catalog generally uses the native language that the records are written in to describe the records. The description includes a brief English summary of the content.

The Locality section lists records according to the area they cover. Records relating to the entire country, such as emigration and immigration records, are listed under Denmark. Most records are listed under a specific *county* or *city or parish*, as follows:

#### GREECE, [COUNTY], [CITY]

For example, in the Locality section look for:

• The place where an ancestor lived, such as:

#### GREECE, KERKYRAS. AGROS

• Then the *record type* you want, for example: *census, probates. or church records.* 

#### GREECE, KERKYRAS, AGROS - CHURCH RECORDS

The catalog is based on the new county structure as instituted in 1793. For additional information about localities in Greece, see the "Gazetteers," "Historical Geography," "History," and "Map" sections of this outline.

This outline also provides some of the library's call numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for Family History Library.

For more help with the Family History Library Catalog, see library staff or:

Booklet: Using the Family History Library Catolog (30966).

Video: How to Use the Family History Library Catalog (53191).

#### **RECORDS SELECTION TABLE: GREECE**

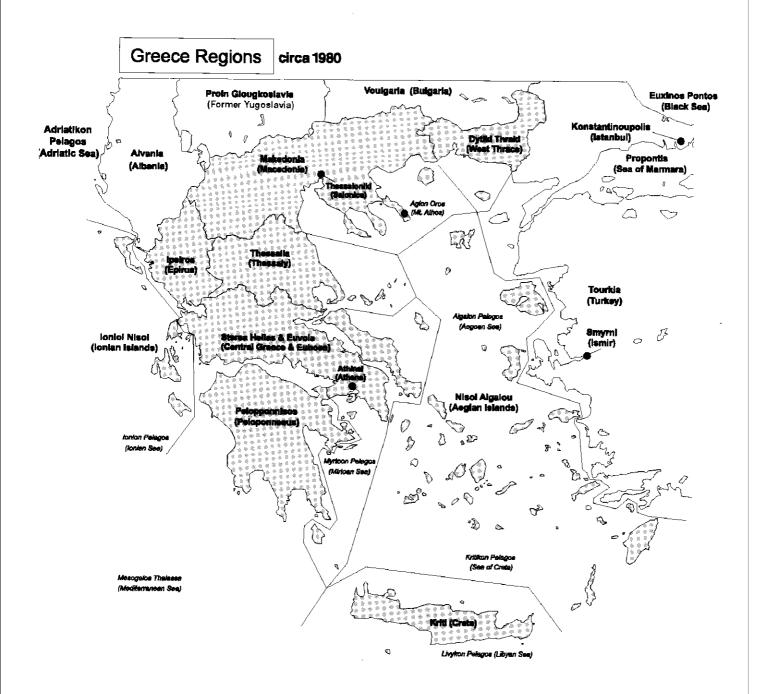
The table below can help you decide which records to search.

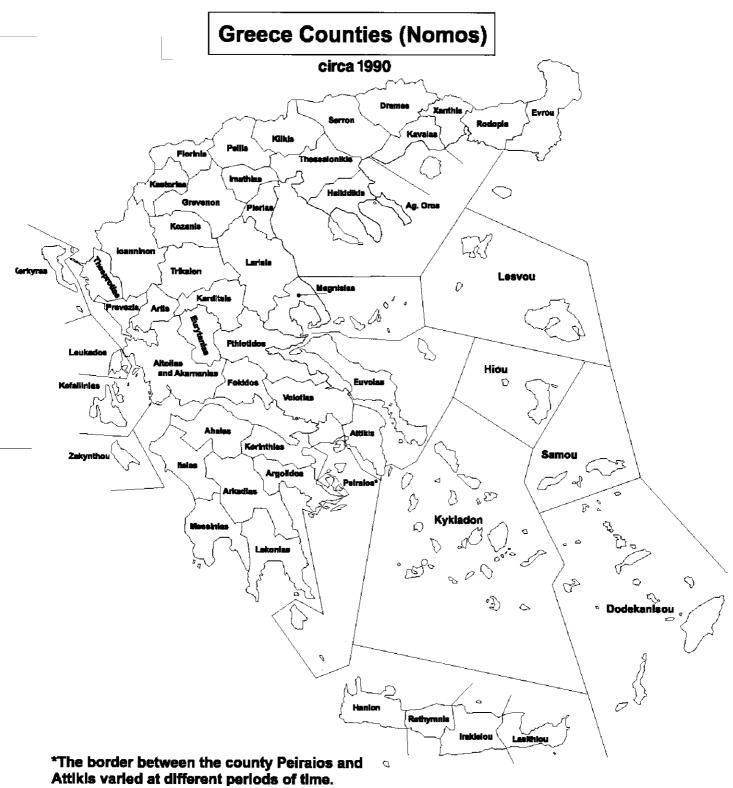
- \. In column I find the category closest to your research goal.
- 2. In column 2 find the types of records most likely to have the information you need.
- 3. In column 3 find additional records that may also be useful.
- 4. Turn to the section of this outline that corresponds to the record type you chose. It explains what the records might tell you, how to search them, and how to find the records in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog. Some records are not at the Library.

Note: Records of previous research-genealogy, biography, history, periodicals, and societies-are useful for most goals, but are not listed unless they are *especially* helpful.

-			
If You Need 2. Look First In		3. Then Search	
Adoptions	Court Records		
Age	Church Records, Civil Registration	Census, Emigration and Immigration	
Birth date	Church Records, Civil Registration	Emigration and Immigration	
Children	Church Records, Civil Registration	Genealogy	
City or parish of birth	Church Records, Civil Registration	Emigration and Immigration, Census	
County origins and boundaries	Historical Geography	History, Encyclopedias and Dictionaries, Gazetteers	
Customs	Social Life and Customs	Encyclopedias and Dictionaries, Periodicals	
Death	Church Records, Civil Registration	Cemeteries	
Divorce	Church Records	Court Records, Military Records	
Ethnicity	Minorities, Census, Church Records	Civil Registration, History	
Historical background	History	Encyclopedias and Dictionaries, Periodicals, Genealogy	
Immigration date	Emigration and Immigration	Civil Registration	
Living relatives	Directories	Biography	
Maiden name	Church Records, Civil Registration		
Marriage	Church Records, Civil Registration	Military Records	
Occupation	Church Records, Civil Registration	Census, School Records	
Parents and other family members	Church Records, Civil Registration	Probate Records, Census	
Physical description	Emigration and Immigration	Military	
Placc-finding aids	Gazetteers, Maps	History, Encyclopedias and Dictionaries	
Place of residence	Census	Church Records, Civil Registration	
Previous research	Genealogy, Periodicals	Biography, Societies, Nobility	
Record-finding aids	Genealogy	Periodicals	
Religion	Church Records, History	Encyclopedias and Dictionaries	
Social activities	Social Life and Customs	Biography, History	

**GREECE** - Historical Map





## ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Archives collect and preserve original documents of organizations such as churches or governments. Libraries generally collect published sources such as books, maps, and microfilm. This section describes the major repositories of genealogJcal and historical records and sources for Greece. When one of these institutions is referred to elsewhere in this outline, return to this section to obtain the address.

Il' you plan to visit one of these reposit?ries, . contact the organization and ask for mformallon about their collection, hours, services, and fees.

Even if the original records you need are in an archive or library in Greece, the Family History Library may have a microfilm copy of them.

In Greece there are several types of genealogical repositories:

- General Archives of Greece (GAK)
- County Offices
   District Offices
   Municipal archives
   Local vital record offices
   Military archives
   Church archives
   Other libraries (public and academic)

General Archives of Greece (GAK) (Γενικά Αρχεία Του Κράτους - Genika Archeia tou Kratous)

Some have translated the title for this archive as the "National Historical Archives." The Greek government collects records relating to Greek history, culture, and people. Records of genealogical value at general archives include:

Church records Civil registration Passports School records Immigration records and declaration of domicile records from the mid-nineteenth century Pension and marriage records of military officers

• Notarial company records

Microfilm copies of many of the records at this archive are available at the Family History Library. The central archives of the General Archives of Greece is located at the following address: Genika Archeia Tau Kratous (fAK) Megaron Akadimias ados Eleftheriou Venizclou 28 10679 Athens GREECE Tel: (01) 362-7781 Fax: (01) 362-7781

Branches of the General Archives of Greece

Branches of the General Archives of Greece (GAK) collect records within the area they serve. These branches may include the area of a county, island, or large city. These branches are usually located in the capital of a district (*Eparhia*).

To find out where the branch of the GAK for a particular area is located, inquiries can be sent to the central offices listed above.

County Offices (Νομαρχείον - Nomarheion)

Greece is divided into 53 counties (*Nomos*). Each county has an office and an archive. The archives include duplicates of some records of the municipal archives. These include caples of the male registers used for military recruitment.

District Offices (Επαρχείον - Eparheion)

Each county is further subdivided into districts *(Eparhia)*. Various records are found in these archives. These may include duplicates of municipal records.

Municipal/Community Archives (Δημοτικά/Κοινοτικά Αρχεία -Dimotika/Koinotika Archeia)

In Greece each municipality or community has its own archives under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior (*Ypourgeiol1 Esoterikol1*). These are located in the town or city halls. They serve as local repositories for records pertaining to their particular areas. Among the records of genealogical value at mUllIClpal archives are the following:

Birth, marriage, and death records Town registers

• Book of Municipal Personnel Book of Relatives of Deceased Persons Family status records (*oikogelleiaki katastasis*)

The municipal archives of Greece are not open to the public. You may be granted specml permlsslOn to search these records from the mayor or the clerk. This will vary from one archive to another. When writing to the municipal or community archives, you will not need a street address as there is only one office in each town and it is understood where this is located.

(Local) Civil Records Offices (Ληξαρχείον - Lixiarheion)

In 1925 a separate office was created for keeping vital records-records of births, marriages, and deaths. In larger cities, these offices often have their own buildings. In smaller towns they are often found in the town halls (municipal or community offices).

The civil registry office in Athens has copies of some births, marriages, and deaths from 1859; however, the records in these offices generally begin in 1925. The first years after these offices began not every person was recorded, but later the records became more complete.

For more information about these offices and their records, sec the "Civil Registration" section of this outline.

Census records may be found at the National Statistics Service:

Ypourgeio Esoterikon Statistiki Ypiresia Euaggclistrias 2 Athens GREECE

Military Archives (Στρατιωτκά Αρχεία - Stratiotika Arheia)

Military archives include various types of information, including pension, recruiting, and so on. The recruiting records are particularly valuable as they include a register of all males by year of birth. You may need to write to the recruiting office of the Ministry of Defense main office for information as to the location of these records in local archives:

Stratologiko Grafeio Ag. Paraskeuis Grafeio Koinou Ag. Paraskeui, Athens GREECE

Diocese Archives (Ιερά Μιτρόπολις - Jera Mitropolis)

Greek Orthodox church records of marriages are kept in bishops' offices (*episkopi*). A church officer called a *metropolite* is over a diocese (*mitropolis*). There are 77 dioceses in Greece. Besides these, there is an archdiocese in Athens and in Crete, and an *Exarchate* on Patmos. You should write any request for infonnation directly to the metropolite of the local diocese. For best results, keep the request simple. See the "Church Records" section of this outline.

The address for the archdiocese in Athens is:

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese 21 Agias Filotheis Street Athens GREECE

For addresses to other dioceses, you do not need a street address. Addressing the letter to the city where the diocese is located will be sufficient. See the "Gazetteers" and "Genealogy" sections of this outline for more information.

#### Other Libraries

Some of the sources you will want to use are also available in major libraries in Greece and in other countries. Contact these libraries and ask about their collections, hours, services, and fees.

National Library of Greece Odos Eleftheriou Venizelou Athens GREECE

The National Library has a collection of published genealogies, manuscripts, histories, directories, maps, and newspapers.

## BIOGRAPHY

A biography is a history of a person's life. In a biography you may find the individual's birth, marriage, and death information, and the names of his or her parents, children, or other family members. Use the information carefully because there may be inaccuracies.

Some brief biographies are included in encyclopedias or dictionaries. These include biographies of prominent or well-known citizens of Greece. Sometimes biographies are also written for specific groups of people, such as people who participated in the war of independence. (See the "Encyclopedias and Dictionaries" section of this outline.)

Biographical books at the Family History Library will be listed in the Family History Library Catalog under the locality and then the heading "Biography." There are biographical books at the Family History Library for people who lived in the towns of Hios (county of Hiou), and Zakynthos (county of Zakynthou).

#### **CEMETERIES**

Cemetery records in Greece are generally not a good source for genealogical research. The custom in Greece is to bury a person for only 3-5 ycars, after which the remains are exhumed and placed in an ossuary (*osteofj'lakeion*) in a building at the cemetery. In larger citics some familles owned a family plot where the remains of all of the family members were placed and where there may be a gravestone with information about people buried there.

There are two major types of cemctery records in Greece:

Information recorded on gravestones, called *monumental inscriptions*, which include transcripts of this information. These are available only for family grave plots in larger **cities.** 

• Information recorded by cemetery officials or caretakers, including sexton's records, public (municipal) cemetery records, churchyard records, burial ground records, and grave books. These books are generally not available to the public.

Cemetery records may include the name of the deceased, age, date of death or burial, date or year of birth, birthplace, father or husband's name (maiden names for females not included), and **sometimes marriage infonnation.** 

The only cemetery records currently available from Greece at the Family History Library include cemetery records listing British soldiers who died there in World War II, and two short books by loannes Typaldos-Laskaratos of monuments and coat-of-arms from Catholic and Anglican cemeteries in Kerkyra (Corfu) and in Kefallinia (Cephalonia).

#### CENSUS

A census is a count and description of the population. Censuses have been taken by the government of Greece as well as governments that ruled the region prior to Greek independence. These were taken for population studies, taxation, and military purposes.

However, the census records from Greece have not been made available to the public so it is not certain what types of genealogical information are contained in them. Some early censuses were taken in different places and for different purposes. A census of Crete from 1644 and census records from some areas of Peloponnesus prior to 1820 taken during Venetian rule are located in Venice, Italy. Turkish rulers took frequent censuses, including one in the late 1600s, 1718, 1719, and others through 1798.

In its early years of self-rule, Greece took a census in 1828 and 1830. A department of national statistics was established in 1834. A yearly census was taken from 1836-1845 and in 1848, 1853, and 1856. Later on, a census was taken in 1861, 1870, 1879,1889,1896,1907,1920,1928,1940,1951, 1961,1971,1981, and 1991.

With the addition of new territory, a special census of newly acquired areas was taken in 1865, 1881, 1900, 1913, and 1947. A special, voluntary census of refugees from Asia Minor was taken in 1923.

The location of the above census records may be in the Department of National Statistics. Some census statistics have been published; however, these do not list personal information helpful for genealogical research.

Census records available through the Fantily History Library include some giving more fantily information than others:

1840-1844, 1848, 1851, 1879 and other census records filmed at Nauplion, which includes statistics from the country of Greece and the county Argolidos (computer number 0734592).

1835, 1838-1839 census and 1857-1881, 1889 town registers from county of Argolidos (computer number 0734601).

See FHLC

Census records were also taken of the Armenian minority in Greece and are on nticrofilm as follows:

• 1923 census of Armenians in Greece (computer number 0327569)

1948 census of Armenians in Thessaloniki and See FHLC regions of Macedonia and Thrace in northern Greece (computer number 0327578).

1953 census of Armenians in Greece (computer number 0327573 and 0327571)

#### **Searching Census Records**

When searching census records, it's important to remember the following:

• Information may be incorrect.

- Accept the ages with caution.
- Given names may not always be the same as the name recorded in vital records.

Place names may be misspelled.

• If your family is not at the suspected address. search the surrounding area.

When you find your family in one census, search that same location in the earlier and later census records for additional family members.

## **CHURCH RECORDS**

Records of births, marriages, and deaths are commonly called *vital records* because critical events in a person's life are recorded in them. Church records are vital records made by priests. Church records are crucial for genealogical research in Greece.

The Eastern Orthodox faith is the official religion of Greece, although other religions are tolerated. Fully 97 percent of the population of Greece belongs to the Greek Orthodox Church. During Ottoman rule the church was headed by the patriarch of Constantinople. After Greece won its independence in 1830, the church withdrew from control of that patriarch and became self-governing with a holy synod of bishops, subject to the control of the state. The highest religious official in Greece is the archbishop of Athens, who is responsible for maintaining doctrinal unity among all Greek Orthodox churches.

Greek Orthodox church records are excellent **sources for accurate information on names, dates,** and places of births, marriages, and deaths. Most people who lived in Greece were recorded in a church record.

Greek Orthodox churches have made records for several centuries. Some church records in Greece begin in the sixteenth century, although most registers begin in the late 1600s and early 1700s.

For birth, marriage, and death records after about 1840, there may also be a civil record (see the "Civil Registration" section of this outline).

#### Information Recorded in Church Registers

The infonnation recorded in church books varied over time. The later records generally give more complete infonnation than the earlier ones.

The most important church records for genealogical research arc christening, marriage,

and burial registers. In addition, church records may include account books, list of clergy, and lists of members.

Greek Orthodox church records were written in Greek. Catholic Church registers are in Latin and Italian. Armenian church registers are in Annenian.

#### Baptisms (Βαπτίσεις)

In early years, children were generally christened a few days after their birth. Christening registers usually give the infant's and parents' names (sometimes giving the grandfather's name), status of legitimacy, names of godparents, and the birth and christening date. The patronymic name is given for each male person mentioned in the entry and husband's name for the females. You may also find the date, father's occupation, and the family's place of residence.

#### Marriages (Γάμοι)

Marriage registers give the date of the marriage, the names of the bride and groom, and the names of the parents of the bride and groom. They may also list the names of witnesses and list the ages and birthplaces of the bride and groom.

**Diocese Marriage Records** 

In Greece, persons who wanted to marry had to talk to the local priest. The prospective couple submitted certificates giving their birth, parentage, and other information to the local priest, who forwarded it to the diocese (*mitropolis*). Clerks there would check to make sure neither party was currently married to someone else, nor too closely related to the intended spouse. Ifno problems were found, the diocese would issue the permission for **Inarnage.** 

Upon receiving the diocese's approval, the local priest performed the marriage. Often, the only permanent record of the marriage is the information recorded by the diocese. If the marriage did not actually take place, that fact is usually noted in the diocese's records.

These records generally give the same information as the parish marriage record and may also list the date the certificate was issued, the birthplaces of the bride and groom, their residence, parents' names, and whether this was the first or a subsequent marriage. Other infonnation varies. The original certificates that were provided by the bnde and groom appear to be on file in the diocese.

#### **Diocese Divorce Records**

Divorces before the mid-twentieth century were uncommon. Records of divorces may contain information on family members, their marital history, their property, residences, and dates of other important events such as the children's births. Records of divorce are found either in court records or in diocese records.

#### Deaths (Θάνατοι)

Deaths were recorded by the priest who performed the funeral. Burial usually took place within 24 hours of death, either in the parish where the person died, or in the cemetery of the town where the person died.

Death registers give the name of the deceased person, the father's name, the date of death, age, marital status (widow or widower), and sometimes the cause of death.

#### **Locating Church Records**

In earlier years, each priest had a book where he recorded the ordinances he performed. Birth entries from his books were copied by the civil authorities in order to construct the male register. When a priest retired or died, the book had to be turned in to the diocese. A priest may have served more than one local village or he may have served with other priests in one parish.

You must determine the diocese that your ancestor's town belonged to so that you will know where the records are kept.

In large cities, where there may be many parishes, the Family History Library Catalog uses the parish name (such as St. John) to distinguish the records of different parishes.

Although church records originated on the parish level, the records may be located at various places today. Often the oldest church records are in the GAK. Some very old records are kept in monasteries. Records of the 1800s and 1900s may be kept in local diocese offices. Marriage records especially are generally kept in the diocese offices. Records from the 1900s are often in the diocesan archives.

You can usually obtain birth, death, and sometimes marriage information by writing to or visiting the local mayors' offices. You can write to the diocese office for marriage information. If records are still in possession of churches and monasteries, you can sometimes get information by writing to or visiting the local church officials, although they might not allow access to their records.

#### **Church Directories**

Church directories list the various places where the Orthodox church has congregations and addresses. They often give additional information such as church beliefs, diocese office addresses, and **calendar items.** 

A yearly church directory for the Greek Orthodox Church includes information on Eastern Orthodox churches in other countries of eastern Europe. The Family History Library listings for the 1976 and 1995 editions are:

#### Ημερολόγιον της Εκκληςίας της Ελλάδος

(*Imerologion tis Ekklisias tis Ellados - Almanac of the Churches of Greece*). (s.1.): Apostoliki Diakonia tis Ellados, 1976. (FHL book 949.5 K22e; computer number 0412827.)

#### Δίπτυχα της Εκκλησίας της Ελλάδος 1995

(Dlptyha tis Ekklislas tis Ellados, 1995 -Diptych of the Church of Greece, 1995). Athinai: Apostoliki Diakonia tis Ekklisias tis Ellados, 1995. (FHL book 264.019 Or8d; computer number 0752513.)

#### **Minority Religions and Records**

The minority religions include about 1.3 percent of the population. There are Muslims of Western Thrace, with additional small communities of Roman Catholics (renmants from Venetian times), Protestants (from 19th century missionary activity), Annenian Monophysites, and Jews.

Roman Catholic church records from various parts of Greece have been filmed. For example, many of the records from the 1700s-1930s have been filmed from the county of Kykladon. Church records kept by the Roman Catholic church are similar in content to the Orthodox church records.

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

The Family History Library has some church records on microfilm from Greece. This collection continues to grow as new records are microfilmed.

Earlier church records have been filmed from GAK (Genika Archeia tou Kratous) in the counties (*nomos*) of Kerkyras (1700s-1844), Kefallinias (1700s-early 1900s), Leukados (1700s, 1823-1860), and the district (*eparhla*) of Kythiron (1660s and 1700s-1865). Church records from the diocese of Halkidos, Thivon and Levadias, and Rcthymni have also been filmed. Diocese

boundaries do not always correlate with county boundaries.

The specific holdings of the Family History Library are listed in the Family History Library Catalog. You can determine whether the library has records for the locality your ancestor came from by checking the locality section of the Family History Library Catalog. Of course, if a record has been destroyed, was never kept, has not been microfilmed, or is restricted from public access by the laws of the country, the Family History Library will not have a copy.

In the Family History Library Catalog, look under the name of the town, district, or county where the your ancestor lived:

GREECE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CHURCH RECORDS GREECE, [COUNTY], [DISTRICT] -CHURCH RECORDS GREECE, [COUNTY] - CHURCH RECORDS

#### **Records Not at the Family History Library**

Baptism, marriage, and death records may be found by contacting or visiting a local diocese or GAK (Genika Archeia tou Kratous) in Greece.

Greece has no single repository of church records. The present location of records depends on several factors of nationality, government regulations, and local history. Records are available from several locations.

*Local parishes.* Most church registers arc still maintained by the parish. Most older records, however, have often been turned in to diocese or state repositories.

GAK archives (Genika Archeia tou Kratous). Many pre-1900 records from many parishes are in the GAK. Some of these records have been microfilmed and are available at the Family History Library. However, for more recent records and for those not yet microfilmed, write to the Genika Archeia tou Kratous and request searches of the records. See the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline.

*Diocese archives.* Current parish registers are located at the parish, but older records are collected in diocese archives. The diocese archives particularly keep marriage records.

Some form letters that can be used to write for genealogical information in Greek are given in the following book:

Catsakis, Lica (Bywater). *Greek Genealogical Research.* 2d ed. Salt Lake City, Utah: The Greek Association of Family History and Tradition (SIPEO), 1992 (34-39). (FHL book 949.5 D27b 1992; film 1183684 item 2; fiche 6068522; computer number 0699128.)

Include the following in your request:

• Full name of the person sought

Names of the parents, if known

Approximate date and place of the event

Your relationship to the person

Reason for the request (family history)

Request for a photocopy of the complete original record

International Reply Coupon, available from your local post office

Agreement concerning payment of any fees incurred

#### **Search Strategies**

Use the following strategies to search church records effectively:

- I. Search for the relative or ancestor you selected. When you find the birth record, search for the births of his or her brothers and sisters.
- 2. Search for the marriage of your ancestor's parents. The marriage record will often lead to the birth records of the parents.
- 3. You can estimate the ages of the parents and search for their birth records.
- 4. Repeat the process for both the father and the mother.
- 5. If earlier generations are not in the record, search records of neighboring towns.
- 6. Search the death registers for all family members.

## **CIVIL REGISTRATION**

Civil registration consists of vital records made by the government. Records of births, marriages, and deaths are commonly referred to as *vital records* because they refer to critical events in a person's life. Civil registration records are an excellent source for accurate information on names, dates, and places of births, marriages, and deaths.

The Greek term for vital records is *Lixiarheion*, which is also the title of the office for vital records created in 1925. When making requests for older records, it is best to avoid this term.

Some districts and counties compiled information of birth, marriage, and death records for a community into volumes. These civil registers mostly cover the 1840s-1940s. They are compiled from other sources and may include errors. The records arc in the local mayor's office. Copies may also be found in the county offices (*Nomarhia*). Copies from various town halls and city archives have been filmed from the counties of Athens (*Attikis*), Leukados, and Peiraios.

Beginning about the 1840s, civil registration was formally established, requiring that separate records of birth, marriage, and death be kept by the local government. A separate record-keeping administration, *Lixiarheion*, was not fully established until 1925, when a national department for government registration of vital records was established. Even then, the practice of civil registration was not fully established in all areas until 1931.

For birth, death, and marriage records before 1925, see the "Church Records" section of this outline.

#### **Information Recorded in Civil Registers**

The most important civil records for genealogical research are birth, marriage, and death registers. Contemporary civil registration records usually contain the following information.

Births (γεννήσεις - genniseis)

Birth records generally give the child's name; date the birth was reported; place of birth; hour, date, and day of the week of birth; date, place, and parish of baptism; the father's name, occupation, religion, citizenship, and residence; the mother's name; and the godparents' names.

• Marriages (γάμοι - gamoi)

Civil officials recorded the marriages in registers, usually preprinted fonns bound in a book and kept in the civil office.

Marriage registers give the date of the marriage, the names of the bride and groom, their ages, their places of birth, their residences, their occupatious, their citizenship, their religion, whether this is their first or a subsequent **marriage, and their parents' names.**  Deaths (θάνατοι - thanatoi)

Death records are helpful because they may provide important information on a person's birth, spouse, and parents. Death records generally give the name of the deceased person; date recorded; time, date, and day of the week of the death; place and cause of death; birthplace; **age; residence; occupation; religion; citizenship; marital status; spouse's name; father's name; and mother's name.** 

Women's maiden names are not mentioned in death records.

Civil death records often exist for individuals for whom there are no birth or marriage records. Deaths were usually registered within a few days of the death in the town or city where the person died.

 Male Registers (Μητρώον Αρρένων - Mitroon Arrenon)

When Greece became an independent state, communities began keeping registers of males (*Mitroon Arrenon*), which list all the males born in a particular community. They were kept for voting and military purposes. Male registers were created for all communities in Greece. As new areas became part of Greece, their communities also began keeping male registers. In some areas male registers were reconstructed from other records back to 1825.

Some areas also kept a female register (*Mitroun Thilaion*), which usually started at a later date than the male register. These registers were created retrospectively and therefore may be missing some people.

Male and female registers give the following **information: name** of the **person, father's name,** year of birth (later registers list full date of birth), place of birth, and mother's given name. The entries arc listed chronologically by the date of birth. Some male registers in the counties of Euvoias and Argolidos have been microfilmed and can be found in the catalog under the name of the town and the heading "Civil **Registration.**"

 Town (Resident) Registers (Δημοτολόγιον -Dimotologion)

Town (resident) registers are lists offamily groups living in a particular locality. For communities where these registers exist, the registers start by at least 1887. They list the given name, age, and occupation for each individual. Once a resident register was compiled, it was kept current by adding new information such as marriage, death, and immigration dates. These records can be found in the municipal archives.

#### **Locating Civil Registration Records**

Civil registration records arc kept at the local town hall (*Dimarheion*) in each town or city. Copies are also available at the county offices (*Nomarheion*). You can obtain information from these recent civil registration records by writing to or visiting the local mayor's offices.

Your ancestor may have lived in a village that belonged to a nearby (larger) town. In large cities, there may be many civil registration districts. You may need to use gazetteers and other geographic references to identify the place your ancestor lived and the civil registration office that served it. See the "Gazetteers" section of this outline. In addition to the town, you need to know at least an approximate year in which the birth, marriage, divorce, or death occurred.

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

The Family History Library has microfilmed civil registration records. Records of the Lixiarheion have been filmed for the cities of Athinai (Athens), Peiraicus, Thessaloniki, and Nafplion. To find out what other records and time periods have been microfilmed, check the Family History Library Catalog.

The specific holdings of the Family History Library are listed in the Family History Library Catalog. To find civil registration records in the Family History Library, search in the Locality section of the library's catalog under:

GREECE - CIVIL REGISTRATION GREECE, [COUNTY] - CIVIL REGISTRATION GREECE, [COUNTY], [DISTRICT] - CIVIL REGISTRATION GREECE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CIVIL REGISTRATION

The Library's collection continues to grow as new records are microfilmed and added to the collection from numerous sources. Don't give up if records are not available yet. Check the Family History Library Catalog from time to time to see if new records have been acquired from your area of Greece.

# Locating Records Not at the Family History Library

Birth, marriage, divorce, and death records may be found by contacting or visiting local civil registration offices or archives in Greece. For records not available at the Family History Library, you will need to write to the local archives **in Greece.** 

## **COURT RECORDS**

If you suspect that your ancestor may have been involved in land disputes or other legal situations, or committed a crime, records for these will be found through the ministry of justice of Greece.

For 1849-1861, alist of people who were qualified to be jurors is found on FHL film 103900, item 1-5 (computer number 0757498). Copies of some of the court decisions relating to birth or adoptions, marriages, divorces, and so on may be found at the municipality or diocese. Some of these are included with records that have been filmed.

## DIRECTORIES

Directories are alphabetical lists of names and addresses. These often list all the adult residents or tradesmen of a city or area. In the twentieth century there arc directories of those having telephones.

Telephone directories of local residents and businesses can be useful for genealogical research. These are published periodically and may include an individual's name, address, and occupation. Telephone directories may include addresses of churches, cemeteries, civil registration offices, and other locations of value to the genealogist.

The Family History Library has a few directories for Greece:

A directory of people from the island of Kythira, including many persons from there who moved to other places

A 1994 telephone directory of Athens-Piraeus (*A thinai-Peiraieus*)

Telephone directories from 1973-1975 for the counties of Attikis, Ahaias, Kefallinias, and Zakynthou;, the island of Crete; the Aegean Islands; and the regions of Peloponnesus and Thessaly

Directories arc listed in the locality section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

#### GREECE - DIRECTORIES GREECE, [COUNTY], [CITY] -DIRECTORIES

The telephone company of Greece (OTE) has a listing of white and yellow pages available on the Internet:

www.hellasyellow.gr/

There are also special directories that can help yon find church dioceses and parishes. See the "Church Directories" section of this outline.

# EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Emigration and immigration sources list the names of people leaving (emigration) or coming into (immigration) Greece. These lists are usually found as passenger lists, permissions to emigrate, records of passports issued, hsts of prisoners deported, and so on. The information in these records may include the names of the emigrants, ages, occupations, destinations, and the place of origin or birthplace of the emigrant.

These sources can be valuable in helping you determine where in Greece your ancestor came from. If you don't find your ancestor, you may find emigration information on neighbors of your ancestor. People who lived near each other in Greece often settled together in the country they emigrated to.

Records were created when individuals emigrated from or inunigrated into Greece. Other records document an ancestor's arrival in his or her destination country. This section discusses:

Emigration from Greece Greek immigrants to the United States Finding the emigrant's town of origin Immigration into Greece

#### Emigration from Greece

Sometimes the best sources for information about your immigrant ancestor are found in the country he or she emigrated to. These records sometimes provide the town of origin and other infonnation. To learn about these records, use handbooks, manuals, and research guides for that country.

Until the 1820s Greeks emigrated to European countries mostly for political reasons. After the Greek nation was established, the reasons for emigration were econOlnic. Most people leaving Greece in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries went to the United States, Egypt, Australia, South America, or South Africa. By 1910, an estimated one quarter to one fifth of the total labor force of Greece had left.

In 1914 alone, 35,832 Greek emigrants went to the United States. Emigration to the United States nearly stopped after 1924 when restrictive immigration quotas were applied. After that time most emigrant Greeks went to other countries such as Australia, Canada, or South Africa. Today there arc many Greeks in Australia, which is called by some the largest of the Greek islands.

These Greek emigrants were not all from Greece. Many came from areas outside of Greece, mainly from the surrounding Turkish territory, the Balkan countries, or Egypt.

For most Greek emigrants, this was to be a temporary move-they intended to return to Greece with money they saved abroad. Almost half of the emigrants eventually did return to Greece.

Greeks established Greek Orthodox churches wherever they had sufficient numbers. Before they could establish a Greek parish, they often associated with other Eastern Orthodox churches such as the Russian Orthodox Church. Consult church records for these churches if you expected to find your ancestor's records in the Greek Orthodox church and didn't. The church was the cultural and social heart of the community. The church helped the Greek people maintain their cultural identity wherever they settled. In America, for instance, they even offered Greek language elasscs for American-born children.

Records of passports and other such documents are located in Athens and Nauplion, the capital and former capital of Greece. Such records from the county of Argolidos have been microfilmed and can be searched through the Family History Library (computer number 0734602).

Sec FHLC

#### Greek Immigrants to the United States

Although Greeks had been leaving their homelands for the New World since colonial times as sailors, merchants, or miners, it wasn't until the I890s that substantial Greek communities were established in the United States.

At the elose of the Civil War, fewer than one hundred Greeks lived in the United States. Reports of job opportunities in America started a wave of emigration in the 1880s. The earliest emigration was from the Peloponnesus, then from central Greece, Crete, Turkey, Cyprus, and the Balkan countries. The number of emigrants grew slowly until 1900, thereafter growing rapidly and reaching a peak about 1910.

Most Greek immigrants to the United States arrived at the port of New York. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the records and indexes of New York passenger lists from 1897-1943.

See the United States Research Outline (30972) for more information about emigration and immigration records of the United States. At least two books are available at the Family History Library on this subject:

- Fairchild, Henry P. Greek immigration to the United States. Berkeley, Calif.: Yale University Press, 1911. (FHL film 1760249; computer number 0534024.)
- Burgess, Thomas. *Greeks in America.* Boston: Shermon, French, 1913. (FHL book 973 B4ai ser. 2 vol.2; computer number 0264040.)

#### Finding the Emigrant's Town of Origin

Once you have traced your family back to your immigrant ancestor, you must determine the city or town the ancestor was from. Greece has no nationwide index to birth, marriage, or death records. These records were kept locally.

There are several sources, however, that may give your ancestor's place of origin. You may be able to learn the town your ancestor came from by talking to older family members. Members of your family or a library may have some of the following documents that might name the city or town:

Birth, marriage, and death certificates Obituaries

- Journals
   Photographs
   Letters
   Family Bible
   Church certificates or records
   Naturalization applications and petitions
   Passenger lists

   Passports
  - Family heirlooms

The two primary ports of departure from Greece were Piraeus and Patras. Although no passenger lists from Greece have been microfilmed, there are several other sources for tracking your immigrant ancestor's place of origin. If the family came to the United States, the passenger arrival lists can be of great hclp in finding the town where the family last resided in Greece and an ancestor's birthplace, especially in the records of the early twentieth century. Indexes to New York arrivals (1903-1943) and other ports of arrival can be searched through the Family History Library or the National Archives. A published set of books that may be helpful is:

Voultsos, Mary. Greek immigrant Passengers, i885-i910: A Guide and index to Researching Early Greek immigrants. 3 vols. Worcester, Mass.: Mary Voultsos, 1992. (FHL book 973 W2vm; computer number 0670347.) First volume includes a list of Greek passengers to New York 1885-1910, and to Boston 1900-1910 listed alphabetically. The second volume is arranged by date of arrival, and the third volume is arranged by destination. Keep in mind that this list is not complete as it refers only to certain vessels.

Additional information about finding the origins of immigrant ancestors is given in the *Tracing* Table 4 *immigrant Origins* (34111) research outline.

#### **Immigration into Greece**

Significant numbers of ethnic Greek refugees were removed to Greece following World War 1. Some of the registers of refugees, identification lists, and certificate records of those who moved to Greece have been microfilmed and are available at the Family History Library:

- Register olRefugeesfi'om Marmara, Turkey. Halkis, Greece: General Archives of Greece, n.f. (FHL film 1792803 items 26-27; computer number 0763533.)
- *Refugee Records, 192i-1984.* Thessaloniki: Armenian Orthodox Archives, n.f. (FHL films 1038672 items 6-7 and 1038674 item 2; computer number 0327577.) Includes census of Armenian refugees to Thessaloniki (1923) and other records of the refugees from 1921-1937, annotated through 1984.
- Liste preparatoire pour le repatriation des Armeniens de Grece, 1947 (Listfor the Repatriation of Armenians of Greece). Athens: Armenian Orthodox Archives, n.f. (FHL films 1038668 items 3-9, 1038669 items 1-2, 1038672 item I; computer number 0327572.)

# ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES

Encyclopedias provide basic information on a wide range of knowledge or treat a specific topic comprehensively, usually in articles arranged alphabetically. They often contain information of great interest for genealogical research. They can include articles about towns and places, prominent people, minorities, and religions. They can give information about diverse topics such as record keeping practices, laws, customs, commerce, costumes, occupations, and archaic terminology.

The Family History Library has a general knowledge encyclopedia in the Greek language:

Nέον Επίτομον Εγκυκλοπαιδικόν Λεξικόν: Μικρή Εγκυκλοπαίδεια (Neon epitomon egkyklopaidikon lexikon: Mikn. egkvklopaideia - New Abridged Encyclopedic Dictionarv' Micro Encyclopedia). 2 vols. Athenai: N.·Nikas & Sia, 1972. (FHL book 039.89 Ep47e; film 1181682, items 3-4; computer number 0038509.)

For information on language dictionaries, sec the "Language and Languages" section of this outline.

## GAZETTEERS

A gazetteer is a dictionary of place names. Gazelleers describe towns and villages, parishes **and counties, rivers and mountains, sizes of** population, and other geographical features. They usually include only the names of places that existed at the time the gazetteer was published. The place names are generally listed in alphabetical order, as in a dictionary.

Gazelleers may provide additional information about towns, such as schools, districts, local courts with their locations and hierarchy, tax offices, government cashier's offices, diocese, place name changes since the last gazelleer, and so on.

You can use a gazetteer to locate the places where your family lived and to determine the civil and church jurisdictions over those places. For example, the town of Marmara is in the municipality Arhilohou, district Parou, county Kykladon, and diocese Paronaxias.

There may be many places in Greece with the same or similar names. You will need to use a gazelleer to identify the specific town where your ancestor lived, the county it was in, and the jurisdictions where records were kept.

Gazelleers are also helpful for determining county JUrIsdIctIons as used in the Family History Library Catalog.

For genealogical purposes, the best English language gazetteer lists all the counties (*Nomos*), dIstrIcts (*Eparhia*), diocese (*Mitropo/is*), and most of the municipalities (*Dimos/Koinotis*) of Greece: Catsakis, Lica H. (Bywater). *Greek Gazetteer*. Vol. I. Salt Lake City, Utah: Lica H. Catsakis (Bywater), 1997. (FHL book 949.5 E5c; computer number 0794460). This book is primarily based on the 1974 gazelleer listed under "Finding Place Names in the Family History Library Catalog" below.

This is the first volume of a three volume set. The second volume will include all locality names, hsting the municipality, district, county, and diocese they belong to. It will include information about jurisdictional changes made in 1999 when all the communities were absorbed into municipalities. The third volume will include locality name changes.

Another gazelleer in English is:

*Greece: Official Standard Names Approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.* Washington D.C.: U.S. Printing Office, 1960. (FHL book 949.5 E5u; film 0873795, item I; fiche 6053510; computer number 0264691.) MAPS

G 105 .US3x

no. 11

This gazelleer lists alphabetically the name of all the localities and geographic features in Greece transliterated to the English alphabet. Nonstandard names and names that have been changed are followed by a "see" reference to the standard spelling. This book does not list the county or district a particular location belongs to, but it does give geographic coordinates and a five-digit code that indicates the region where it is located.

#### **Changes in Place Names**

Place names have changed over time. Some place names based on other languages such as Turkish have been changed to Greek names. Also, some older forms of town names have been modernized as recently as the 1980s. For example, the city of Athens was spelled *Athinai* formerly and is now spelled *Athina*. In early records the place names may be wrillen differently from today. For some research purposes, such as correspondence, it is useful to learn modem jurisdictions for the area where your ancestors lived. This may also be helpful when finding the ancestral town on modem maps.

Some gazetteers list place names in the older form. The following gazelleer includes cross references for towns that have had name changes, and it lists localities in Greece as they were in 1937:

Στεφάνου, Γρηγόριος (Stefillou, Grigorios). Πλήρες Γεωγραφικόν Λεξικόν της Ελλάδος (Plires Geografikon Lexikon tis Ellados -Complete Gazetteer of Greece). Athens: Vivliopoleion Oikou Mich. Saliverou, 1937.

## (FHL film 1181601, item 4; computer number 0032530.)

Information given in this gazetteer includes a description, the district, the county, and other data, including population statistics as of about 1935.

Words and abbreviations that you will generally tind in the above gazetteers include the following:

Greek	English
βλ	see
δήμοι	municipalities
Ειρηνοδικείον	court
επαρ.	district
επαρχίαν	district (eparhia)
Επιφάνεια εις τ. χμ.	surface in square kilometers
Kat.	residents
Katv.	community (koinotis)
κοινότητες	communities
μητρ.	diocese
Μητρόπολιν	diocese
νομού	county (nomos)
Νομόν	county (nomos)
Οικισμοί	localities, towns
πληθ.	population
πληθισμός	population
Πρωτ.	capital
Πρωτοδικείον	court
Ταχυδρομικόν γραφείον	post office
ύψ.	altitude
Υψόμετρον	altitude
χιλ.	kilometers
xwpiov	village
χωροφυλακή	police

#### Finding Place Names in the Family History Library Catalog

Place names in the Family History Library Catalog are listed under the modern names and current counties. To find the county that a town is filed under in the Family History Library Catalog, you can use the "see" references at the beginning of the first microfiche of Greece in the Family History Library Locality Catalog. If you are using the catalog on compact disc, use the "Locality Browse." The computer will tind places with that **name.** 

Because of the many changes in place names, the Family History Library uses one gazetteer as the standard guide for listing places **in** the Family History Library Catalog. Regardless of the names a place may have had at various times, all Greek places are listed in the Family History Library Catalog by the name that appears in: Λεξικόν των Δήμων, Κοινοτήτων και Οικισμών της Ελλάδος (Lexikon ton Dimon, Koinotiton kai Oikismon tis Ellados - Dictionwy of Municipalities, Communities and Settlements of Greece). Athens: Ethniki Statistiki Ypircsia tis Ellados, 1974. (FHL book 949.5 E5e 1974; film 1184078, item 3; computer number 0000086.) An introduction in English is found in the front of the Family History Library's copy of this book.

To use this gazetteer, start with part II (Mepoç II), which lists all localities (villages, towns, and cities) in alphabetical order. After each locality, the name of the municipality it belongs to will be listed followed by the district (*eparhia*), county (*nomos*), the altitude, and the population as of 1971. You can look up further information about the locality by looking at the municipality or community in part l.

The sources mentioned in this section are listed **in** the Family History Library Catalog under:

#### GREECE-GAZETTEERS

## GENEALOGY

The term *genealogy* is used **in** this outline and in the Family History Library Catalog to describe various records containing family information gathered by individuals, researchers, societies, or archives. These records may include pedigree charts, compiled information on families, correspondence, ancestor lists, research exchange files, record abstracts, and collections of original or copied documents. These can be excellent sources of information and may save you valuable time. Because they are not original records but are compiled from other sources, they should be carefully evaluated for accuracy.

#### **Major Collections and Databases**

The Family History Library has several sources that contain previous research or can lead you to others who are interested in sharing family information. These sources include:

• International Genealogical Index. The index provides names and vital information for deceased persons. This information was mostly submitted by members of the LOS Church. Although only a limited number of persons from Greece are listed in this index, it is worth checking. This research tool lists birth, christening, or marriage dates.

The International Genealogical Index is available on microfiche and on compact disc

as part of FamilySearch<sup>TM</sup> This index can be searched by surname. The microfiche copy of the catalog is divided by country, so you will need to check the fiche from Greece.

Ancestral File, This file, part of FamilySearch, contains family history information linked in family groups and pedigrees that have been contributed since 1979. By 1992 the file contamed millions of names, mcludmg those of many Greek families. Through Ancestral File you can print pedigree charts, family group records, and individual summary sheets for any person in the file. However, be aware that all information has been submitted by volunteers, so some of it may not be correct.

• *Family Group Records Collection*. More than 8 million family group record forms have been microfilmed in the Family Group Records Collection. The two major sections are the Archive Section and the Patrons Section. A special collection of Greck family group sheets is part of the Archive Section and can be found on FHL film 1281098 (computer number 0291768). The film numbers for both sections are listed in the Author/Title section of the Family History Library Catalog under "Family Group Records Collection."

#### **Family Histories**

Some Greek families have produced histories or newsletters that may include genealogical information, biographies, photographs, and other excellent information. These usually include several generations of the family.

The Family History Library has a few published Greek family histories. Copies of these are listed in the surname section of the Family History Library Catalog. Not every name found in a family history will be listed; only the major surnames discussed in the family history are included in the catalog.

Many Greek family histories are listed in a helpful bibliography of Greek family histories:

Ελληνική Γενεαλογική Βιβλιογραφία

*1800-1997 (Elliniki Genealogiki Bibliografia - Greek Genealogical Bibliography 1800-1997).* Athinai: D.A. Maurideros, 1998. (FHL book 949.5 D2m; computer number 0827319.) This lists genealogical publications alphabetically by the name of the author. It does not have a **surname index.** 

#### Internet

The Internet is a valuable tool for finding information on genealogical resources, coordinating research, and finding out what research may have already been done. Most of the information on the Internet is compiled from secondary sources and must be verified, but it may provide good clues and identify new sources to search. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial online 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 and lecture sessions Obtain information about records and **repositories** Access research and language aids

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

Information and guides are available on the Internet for research in Greece. Sites that include information about maps, directories, and other subjects are found in various sections of this outline. General sites that act as an index to many interesting Greek genealogical sites on the Internet include:

Greek GenWeb Project: http://www.rootsweb.com/~grcwgw/

Family History Library home page: http://www.familysearch.org

Cyndi's List of Genealogical Sites: http://www.cyndislist.com/greece.htm

Greek Genealogy Section of Hellenes-Diaspora: http://www.licacatsakis.com

• Greek Telephone Directories (White Pages, and Yellow Pages, in Greek or in English): www.hellasyellow.gr

Internet site addresses can change often, so if you find one of these sites has moved or has been discontinued, try accessing a search engine and entering the subject of the former site.

#### **Genealogical Collections**

A book giving genealogical information on prominent Greek families, including family trees is the following:

Sturdza, Mihail-Dimitri. Dictionnaire historique et généalogique des grandesfamilles de Grece. d'Albanie et de Constantinople (Historical and Genealogical Dictionary of the Important Families of Greece. Albania. and Constantinople). Paris: L'Auteur, 1983. (FHL book 949.5 D5s; computer number 0191172.) Includes an alphabetical index of family names at the end.

Books from the towns of Petrina (in the county of Lakonias) and Laukos (in the county of Magnisias) include genealogical infonnation on families who lived there. Also some of the families of Hios (in Hiou), Ikaria (in Samou), and the island of Zakynthos appear in published books. A nice genealogy of the Kantakouzinou family from ancient times is also available. Such genealogies can be found in the Family History Library Catalog under:

GREECE-GENEALOGY GREECE, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY GREECE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -GENEALOGY

If you find your surname in any of the sources described in this section, detennine whether the entry actually pertains to your family. All persons with the same surname are not necessarily related. Often, you will have to do some original research before you can connect your ancestry to families listed in these sources.

## HERALDRY

Coats of arms were given during Byzantine times in Greece. Some Greeks abroad obtained titles in other countries of Europe. Also some territories, such as the Ionian Islands, had some forms of heraldry while under other governments. However, in modern times titles and coats of arms have not been recognized in Greece.

An organization that has been very involved with heraldry in Greece is the Heraldic and Genealogical Society of Greece (Εραλδική και Γενεαλογική Εταιρεία της Ελλάδος), located at:

Heraldic and Genealogical Society of Greece 3dr Septemvriou Street 56 Mouscion, Athens GREECE Various authors in Greece have prepared armorial or heraldry books. An *armorial* is a collection of descriptions of coats of arms and the families that bear or use them. It also briefly describes their entitlement to that coat of arms. It may also note early bearers of that coat of arms, sometimes with relationships, birth dates, and other genealogical information. Each armorial will differ from others and will include different names. Some minor noble families are not included in any hooks. Examples of these published books for the county of Kerkyras and the island of Zakynthos include:

Τυπάλδου-Λασκαράτου, Ιωάννου (loannis Typaldos-Laskaratos). Τα Οικόσημα του Αρχείου της lov(ou Γερουσίας (Ta Oikosima tou Archeiou tis loniou Gerousias - The Coats of Arms in the archives of the Ionian Senate). Athinai: Eraldiki kai Genealogiki Etairia Ellados, 1982. (FHL book 949.55 D6tj; film 1181765, item 10; computer number 0425087.)

Τυπάλδου-Λασκαράτου, Ιωάννου (loannis Typaldos-Laskaratos). Οικόσημα της Ζακύνθου απο τον κώδικα 17 της Ιστορικής Kat Εθνολογικής Εταιρείας της Ελλάδος (Oikosima tis Zakynthou apo ton kodika 17 tis Istorikis kai Ethnologikis Etaireias tis Ellados - Heraldry of Zakynthos from the 17 Codicils of the Historic and Ethnologic Society of Greece). Athinai: Istoriki kai Ethnologiki Etaireia tis Ellados, 1988. (FHL book 949.55/Z1 D6t; computer number 0578434.) Includes heraldry from Zakynothos Island, also called Zante.

The Heraldic and Genealogical Society of Greece also has a journal which may be useful in the study of Greek heraldry:

Δελτίον Εραλδικής Kat Γενεαλογικής Εταιρείας Ελλάδος (Deltion Eraldikis kai Genealogikis Etairias Ellados - Bulletin of the Heraldic and Genealogical Society of Greece). Athinai: Ekdosis Eraldikis kai Genealogikis Etairias Ellados, 1979-. (FHL book 949.5 D25d; computer number 0047412.)

Armorials can be found in the Family History Library Catalog under:

GREECE-HERALDRY GREECE, [COUNTY], - HERALDRY

See the "Nobility" section of this outline.

## HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

Greece is traditionally divided into 10 regions:

Central Greece Peloponnesus Thessaly Macedonia Epirus Thracc **Crete** 

Aegian Islands Ionian Islands Mount Athos

These regions each have names in Greek, Turkish, and English. For example, Peloponnesus is known as *Peloponnisos* in Greek and *Morias* in Turkish. Although these regions are often referred to by Greeks when saying where they are from, the major administrative subdivisions in Greece are:

Greek	<b>Transliterated</b>	English
νομός	nomos	county
επαρχία	eparhia	district
δήμος	dimos	municipality
καινότις	koinotis	community

Greece has 53 counties (nomos), each administratively divided into several districts (eparhias). The local government is administered either by a municipality (dimos) or community (koinotis, sometimes called koinotita), depending on the size and status of the city or town. A municipality is governed by a local mayor. A community is governed by a local community president. Communities were dissolved and now there are no more community presidents, only mayors. Records are located mainly in offices of the municipality or community; however, some may be found in the offices of the county or district

The county (*nomos*) is the most important subdivision to know for genealogical research. You will need to know this jurisdiction for the town your ancestor was from to find genealogical records.

An important book listing information concerning the creation and development of municipalities and communities in Greece from 1836-1939 and the changes in the governmental division of the country of Greece is:

Δρακάκη, Αλεξ. **Θ.** και Στυλ. Ι. Κουνδούρου (Alex. Th. Drakaki and Styl. I. Koundourou). Αρχεία περί της Συστάσεως των Δήμων και Κοινοτήτων /836-/939, και της Διοικητικής Διαιρέσεως του Κράτους (Archeia peri tis Systaseos kai Exelixeos ton Dimon Kai koinotiton /836-/939, kai tis dioikitikis **diaireseos Iou kra!ous - Records Concerning** the Creation and Development of Municipalities and Communities 1836-1939, and the Administrative Division of the Country) Athinai: Grafikai Tcchnai, 1939. (FHL book 949.5 N2d; film 1045436 item 12; computer number 0265157.)

## HISTORY

Effective family research requires some understanding of the historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. These events may have led to the creation of records such as land and military documents that mention your family.

The eastern Mediterranean is called one of the cradles of civilization. From 3000-2000 B.C. a Minoan civilization flourished on the island of Crete. From 1400-1100 B.C. the Myceans established kingdoms in Peloponnesus. Following that was a period of strong city-states. A fusion of the Greek and Persian cultures under Alexander the Great created the Hellenistic civilization. Some subsequent key dates and events in the history of Greece are as follows:

в.с. 146	Rome conquered Greece
a.d. 285	Rome divided with two capitals one in Rome and one in Byzantium (Greek city later renamed Constantinople)
1453	Constantinople fell to the Turks and became the capital of the Ottoman Empire
1821	Greek war of independence against Ottoman rule began
1827	Greek independence achieved
1832	Monarchy established over Greece
1863	Ionian Islands ceded to Greece by Great Britain
1881	Thessaly and part of Epirus ceded to Greece by Turkey
1913	Crete, Macedonia, and the Aegea Islands ceded to Greece by Turkey

1918	Western Thrace ccdcd to Greece by Bulgaria
1920	Eastern Thracc and part of Asia Minor granted to Greece
1923	Eastern Thrace and part of Asia Minor returncd to Turkey
1947	Dodccancsc Islands ceded 10 Greece by Italy
1973	Monarchy abolished; Greecc declarcd a republic
1981	Greece became tcnth member of the European Community

The Family History Library has some published natIOnal, rcgional, and local histories for Greece. You can find histories in the Family History LIbrary Catalog under one of the following:

EUROPE - HISTORY GREECE - HISTORY GREECE, [COUNTY] - HISTORY GREECE, [COUNTY], [CITY] - HISTORY

You ean easily find general histories for Greece at local public libraries or in major research libraries.

#### **Local Histories**

Local histories can also be valuable sources for family history research. They describe the settlement of the area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You may also find lists of soldiers and civil officials. Even if your ancestor is not listed, information on other relatives may be included that will provide important clues for locating the ancestor. A local history may also lead to clues for other records to search.

In addition, you should study and enjoy local histories for the background information they can proVIde about your family's lifestyle and the community in which your family lived.

The Family History Library has some local histories for towns in Greece. Similar histories are often available at major public and university libraries and archives, as well. Local town halls usually have such histories or can direct you to the source where you can obtain them.

Bibliographies that list local histories are available for some arcas in Greece. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

#### GREECE - BIBLIOGRAPHY GREECE, [COUNTY] - BIBLIOGRAPHY GREECE - HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY GREECE, [COUNTY] - HISTORY -BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### **Calendar Changes**

The Gregorian calendar is the calendar in common use in the world today. It is a correction of the Julian calendar that had been in use since A.D. 46. Leap years had been miscaleulated in the Julian calendar. By 1582, the calendar was 10 days behind the solar year.

The Julian calendar changed to the Gregorian calender in Greece in 1923-1924, at which time the calender was changed 13 days to bring it in line with the solar year.

Some records kept during Ottoman rule or kept by Greek communities in Asia Minor used the Ottoman calendar, which calculates time from the "flight of Mohammad" on 16 July 622. It is a lunar calendar and the first day of the year varies considerably from year to year. To make this equate to our modern calendar, 622 years must be added to the Ottoman calendar (for example, 1200 IslamIC corresponds to 1822-1823 Gregorian). For exact correspondences of dates, use conversion tables such as in the following book:

#### Freeman-Grenville, G.S.P. The Muslim and

*Christian Calendars,* New York: Oxford University Prcss, 1963. Tables for the conversion of Muslim and Christian dates from the Hajra to the year A.D. 2000.

A wonderful conversion calendar that converts days from our modem Gregorian calendar to the Julian and Muslim calendars and vice versa is found at the following Internet address:

www.bennyhills.fortunecity.com/elfman/454/ calindex.html

Internet Available in Camp room

When the French Empire under Napoleon Car controlled parts of Greece, such as the Ionian islands, another calendar was introduced. This calendar, based on the founding of the French Republic, used a system of months unrelated to the regular calendar. You may find some records that use that calendar. If so, see *French Republican Calendar* (34046).

## LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES

Most matcrials used in Greek research are written in Greek. However, you do not need to speak or read Greek to research Greek records. You will need to know the Greek alphabet and some key words and phrases to understand the records.

Many of the records of the Catholic church are also in Latin and Italian, and some military records during the period of King Otto are in German. Use the following to help with reading these records:

Latin Genealogical Word List (34077) Italian Genealogical Word List (34071) German Genealogical Word List (34067)

There are several forms of the Greek language:

Ancient Greek, Biblical Greek, and Byzantine Greek are not seen in genealogy.

Official Greek, *Katharevusa (kathareuousa)*, was used in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries until the late 1960s.

Popular Greek, *Demotic (dimotiki)*, was used in older records of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries.

Demotic Greek was established as the official language of the country in the 1970s.

The Greek language has its own alphabet of 24 letters. The representation of Greek words in the Latin alphabet is called *transliteration* (sometimes referred to as *romanization*).

No single system for transliterating Greek letters is satisfactory to everybody. The problem is complicated by tradition, phonetics, and politics. As a result of this, Greek place names and people names may be spelled in various ways in different sources you use in your Greek research. For example, Xavia may be spelled *Hania* or *Chania* or *Khania* depending on how the letters are transliterated. This often makes it difficult to figure out what the original Greek spelling may have been.

The United States Library of Congress developed a system for their needs that has been accepted by most American libraries, but it is impractical for representing the names of people and places. The system preferred for genealogical purposes allows a letter-for-Ietter representation with less emphasis on pronunciation. It can easily be used by personal computers and can easily be converted back to Greek letters so that the names will be spelled mostly the same as the original Greek. Following is a list of the letters of the Greek alphabet, the preferred method of transliteration for place names and personal names, and alternative methods of transliteration used:

Greek	Preferred	Other
Aa	Aa	
Ββ	Vv	Bb
ry	Gg	Yy
Δδ	Dd	Th, th, Dh dh
EE	Ec	
Ζζ	Zz	
<u>Η</u> η	Ιi	Е е, <b>Ē</b> е
Θθ	Th, th	
Ιι	I i	
KK	Kk	Cc
Λλ	Ll	
Μμ	Mm	
Nv	Nn	
Ξξ	Xx	Ks ks
00	00	
Ππ	Рр	
Pp	Rr	Rh rh
Σσς	S s	
Ττ	Tt	
Τζτζ	Tz tz	J
<i>Yv'</i>	Yy	Ii
Φφ	Ff	Ph ph
Xx	Hh	Ch ch, Kh kh
Ψψ	Ps ps	
Ωω	00	Ōō

'When this letter follows another vowel (a, E, a, i, it is transliterated as u.

#### Language Aids

A genealogical word list for Greek is found in the following source:

Catsakis, Lica (Bywater) and Daniel M. Schlyter. Greek Genealogical Research. Salt Lake City, Utah: Greek Association of Family History and Tradition (SIPEO), 1993 (45-50). (FHL book 949.5 D27b; computer number 0699128.)

The following books and English-Greek dictionaries can also aid you in your research. You can find these and similar material at many research libraries:

*DivlY's New English-Greek and Greek-English Dictionary.* Athens: Divres, 1959. (FHL film 1183597, item 2; computer number 0444578.)

Jannaris, A.N. A Concise Dictionary of the English and Modern Greek Languages as Actually Spoken, London: John Murray, 1895 [1956 reprint]. (FHL book489.3321 J261c; film 1181682, item 2; computer mmlber 1183597.)

For additional language aids, including dictionaries of various dialects and time periods, check the Family History Library Catalog in the locality section or in the subject section under:

#### GREECE - LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES GREEK LANGUAGE - DICTIONARIES

## MAPS

Maps arc an important source to locate the places where your ancestors lived. They help you see the neighboring towns and geographic features of the arca your ancestor came from. Some Greek maps indicate the county (*noll1os*).

Maps locate places, geographical features, transportation routes, and proximity to other towns. Historical maps are especially useful for understanding boundary changes.

Maps are published individually or as an atlas. (An atlas is a bound collection of maps.) Maps may also be mcluded m gazciteers, guidebooks local histories, and history texts.

There arc different types of maps that will help you in different ways. Historical atlases describe the growth and development of countries. They show boundaries, migration routes, settlement patterns, military campaigns, and other historical information. Road atlases are useful because of the detail they provide.

#### **Using Maps**

Maps must be used carefully for the following **reasons:** 

Often several places have the same name. For example, there are six towns called *Loutron* in present-day Greece, two of them in the same county (Larisis) but different districts (Elassonos and Larisis).

The spelling, or even the names, of some towns may have changed since your ancestors lived there. For example, the town presently known as *Pelasgia* was named *Gardiki* until the 1930s. Some localities have different names in different languages. For example, *Kerkvra* is known as *Corlil* in foreign languages...

Place names are often misspelled in various sources and the spellings may have been badly changed in transliteration. For example, *Him* may be found as *Khios* or *Chios* on some maps.

Administrative boundaries such as counties and districts arc not clearly indicated on all maps. Government maps will usually show such information while other maps may not.

#### FInding the Specific Town on the Map

To be successful researching your Greek ancestry, you must identify the town where your ancestor **lived. Because many towns have the same name**, you may need some additional information before you can locate the correct town on a map. Before usmg a map, search gazetteers, histories, family records, and other sources to learn all you can about the following:

The district your ancestor's town was in The county your ancestor came from Name of the town where your ancestor was baptized or married Towns where your ancestor's relatives lived The size of the town Nearby localities, such as large cities Nearby features, such as rivers and mountains Dates when the town was renamed Dates the town existed Other names the town was known by

You can use gazetteers to identify the district and county your ancestor's town was in. This will distinguish it from other towns of the same name and help you locate it on a map. See the "Gazetteers" section of this outline.

#### **Finding Maps and Atlases**

Collections of maps and atlases are available at numerous historical societies and at public and university libraries.

The Family History Library has some good Greek maps and atlases. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

#### **GREECE - MAPS**

The best detailed maps of Greece arc published by the Greek government and usually show county and district boundaries. A very good German military map also includes Greece (scale I:200,000) and uses the Roman alphabet:

Generalkarte von Milteleuropa (General Maps oj' Middle Europe). Wicn: Bundesamt fur Eich-' und Vermessungswcscn, 1889-1967. (FHL maps 940 E7bm; film 1181580, item I; computer number 0041480.)

Another excellent map of Greece shows place names m the Greek alphabet (scale 1:200,000):

*Elias (Greece).* Athinai: Ethniki Statistiki Ypiresia tis Ellados, 1963. (FHL maps 949.5 E7e; computer number 0264943.)

A gazetteer of Greece that goes with the above map is also available:

*Elias (Greece)* Athinai: Ethniki Statistiki Ypiresia tis Ellados, 1965. (FHL book 949.5 E5g; computer number 0412938.)

Not only does this book give the references to where a place can be found on the map, but it also lists for cach locality: the municipality or community, district, and county it belongs to, the population as of 1961, and the altitude above sea level. On page 7 of the gazetteer arc instructions in English on how to use the references to find a place on the map.

Maps of Greece can also be found on the Internet:

www.geoeities.com/Athens/Parthenon/4773/M APS.html

## MILITARY RECORDS

Military records identify individuals who served in the armed forces or who were eligible for service. All men are required to serve in the anned forces in Greecc when 21 years of age. Attempting to escape military scrvice is punishable by death. In some cases the scrvice obligation may be postponed for higher education. At certain periods, the first son of a family in which the father was deceased or where there were many children was excused as *aprostatis* (protector [of family]). Some may also have been excused due to health reasons or handicaps. These exceptions had to be noted in the records.

Evidence that an ancestor served in the armcd forces beyond the required term of servicc may be found in family records, biographies, census, probate records, and civil registration.

Military records give information about an ancestor's military carecr, such as promotions, places served, pensions, and conduct. In addition, these records usually include infonnation about his age, birthplace, residence, occupation, physical dcscription, and family members.

The armed forces records you may find include:

Draft lists Personncl files Regimental account books

- Pay vouchers and rccords
- Pension records

Records ofleave

Records of military service in Greece are kept by the government in various archivc locations. The Family History Library has some military records, for the nineteenth century and more recently.

To use Greek military records, dctermine the ycar your ancestor would have been called to service (when he was 21 years old). Males are listed in records by the year they come of age for military service. You must also know at Icast the town where your ancestor was born.

#### **Military History**

Greecc was involved in the following military **actions:** 

1365- 1453	Ottoman Empire conquercd Greece
1770- 1779	Albanian troops dispatched by Ottoman Empire to crush rebellion in Peloponnesus
1821	War ofIndependence (Revolution) officially declared on 25 March
1821- 1829	Revolution in Greece centered at Peloponnesus but involved all of present-day Greece. Ottomans gained Egypt as an ally. England, France, and Russia supported Greek Independence, which was achieved in September 1829.
1854- 1856	Crimcan War
1841- 1897	Revolts against the Ottomans in Crete
1877- 1878	Russo-Turkish War
Oct 1912	First Balkan War; Ottoman empire forced from Macedonia
1913	Second Balkan War; the Balkan states fight over division of Macedonia. War with Bulgaria.
1917- 1919	World War I; Greece defeats Bulgaria, gains territory in Thrace.
1921- 1923	Greek-Turkish war settled territorial issues and provided for compulsory exchange of populations

1940- 1944	World War II; Greece occupied by German-Italian-Bulgarian forces, 1941-1944
1944- 1949	Civil War, started in Athens and spread throughout the mountainous regions of Greece

Additional military histories may be obtained through public and university libraries.

#### Military Records of Genealogical Value

The main source of military records is the Ministry of Defense (*YpOllrgeion Ethnikis Amynis*). Although there may be many types of military records available in Greek archives and repositories, only a few have been microfilmed and arc available through the Family History Library, including marriage and death records, draft registers, and pension records.

Marriage Contracts, Deaths, and so on. During the period of King Otto, a Bavarian ruler, records of marriage, divorce, and deaths were kept m German and Greek. These records cover a period from the 1830s-1860s and are listed in the catalog under:

#### **GREECE - MILITARY RECORDS**

Draft Registers. Some registers of males, draft records, and pension records from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries have been microfilmed and are available through the Family History Library. For example, there are records of military from Nauplion and Halkis. For such records, refer to the Family History Library Catalog.

A copy of the 1883 draft list of Greece, organized by county, district, and municipality, gives a man's full name and his father's name:

Drafi List, /883. Athinai: National Historical Archives (Genika Archeia tou Kratous - GAK), n.r (FHL film 1039000 items 6-9; computer number 0771547.)

Pension Records. Records of military pensions have been filmed from the National Historical Archives in Athens:

#### Militar Pensionen 1836-1862 (Militwy Pensions 1836-1862). Athens: National Historical Archives (Genika Archeia tou Kratous - GAK), n.r (FHL 1038740 item 2-1038844 item 2; computer number 0454822.) Records in German and Greek.

Militarv Pensions 1863-1898. Athens: National Historical Archives (Genika Archeia tou Kratous - GAK), n.r (FHL films 1038724 item 2-1038740 item 1; computer number 0454792.)

## MINORITIES

Minorities make up about three percent of the populaliou of Greece. The minorities are concentrated in the northern regions that were historically inhabited by mixed populations and were subjected to many foreign invasions. In 1923 large population exchanges with Turkey and Bulgaria brought in an additional 1,525,000 Greeks and removed large numbers of Turks and Slavs from the country. Pockets of Turks and Slavs were left in Thrace and Macedonia after these population exchanges. Other minorities include Vlachs, Armenians, Albanians, Jews, and Gypsies.

It's important to learn the history of the ethnic, racial, and religious groups your ancestors belonged to. For example, you might study a history of the Jews in Greece, Armemans m Greece, or Vlachs in Epirus. This historical background can help you identify where your ancestors lived and when they lived there, where they migrated, the types of records they might be listed in, and other information to help you understand your family's history.

For most minorities in Greece, some unique records and resources are available. These include histories, gazetteers, biographical sources, settlement patterns, and handbooks.

The Family History Library collects records of these groups, especially published histories. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog locality section under:

#### GREECE - MINORITIES GREECE, [COUNTY] - MINORITIES GREECE - JEWISH HISTORY

Other sources are also in the "Subject" section of the Family History Library Catalog under the name of the minority, such as Armenians, Albanians, or Jews. Some sources are listed under:

[MINORITY] - GREECE

Following is a short description of each of the main minority groups in Greece. For information about Jews in Greece, see the "Jewish Records" section of this outline.

#### Turks

Turks are the largest minority group in Greece. The Turkish population in Greece during the Ottoman rule was not large and comprised mostly of government officials, soldiers, and farm landowners. Greece obtained territory from Turkey in 1913 and 1919. In 1923 a half million Turks in Greece were exchanged for one and a half million Greeks from Turkey. There are about 250,000 Turks in Greece today. The Turkish population is about half Moslem and half Greek Orthodox. Most are tobacco farmers on the Thrace plains. A few thousand are residents of the Dodecanese Islands, acquired from Italy in 1947.

#### Slavs

Slavic tribes began scttling in Macedonia in the sixth century. When Greecc obtained Macedonian territory from Turkey in 1913, a number of Slavic people came under Greck rule. There are Christian and Muslim Slavs in Macedonia, the latter being more closely affiliated with the Bulgarians. In the 1923 population exchange, 25,000 Greeks were exchanged for 50,000 Slavs. The few remaining Slavs in Grecce are located almost cntirely in Greek Macedonia, but are now classified as Greeks whose mother tongue is Slavic.

#### Albanians

Albanians were brought to Greece as mercenaries by the Byzantine rulers, and as invited colonists of the duchy of Athens to colonize Attika and Voiotia.

Greeks descended from Albanians and belonging to the Greek Orthodox religion now reside mainly in rural areas near Athens, the northeastern Peloponnesus, and the nearby Acgean islands. These Albanians have mostly assimilated into the Greek population. Most are entirely Greekspeaking, but some 25,000 still speak Albanian in the home. In the northeast, near the Albanian border, there is a group of Moslem Albanians known as Chamurian Moslems.

#### Armenians

Armenia lies between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. Since the demise of their kingdom, the Armenians have spread into Turkey, Syria, Greece, and throughout the world. Armenians began settling in Greece before the eleventh century. After the War of Independence, the Annenians of Greece rapidly adopted the language and culture of the Greeks and intermarried with them. The Armenians in Greece today are refugees or descendants of those who fled Turkey into Greece in 1895-1896 and 1914-1918, as well as in the 1920s when the most Armenians settled in Greece.

Census records for Armenians in Greece are discussed in the "Censns" section of this outline. Other records from the Armenian archives in Athens and Thessaloniki have also been filmed, including many Armenian church records.

#### Jews

Jews have been in Greece in small numbers since ancient times. Thessaloniki (Salonika) was the historic center of Jewish activity in Greece. In the thirteenth century, Ashkenazic Jews immigrated to Thessaloniki from Poland, France, and Italy. The main influx took place in the fifteenth century and later as Sephardic Jews, expelled from Spain in 1492, were attracted by the religious tolerance offered under Turkish rule. The language they brought-Ladino, a modified form of Spanish-is still spoken by modern Greek Jews.

Many Greek Jews moved to Palestine after World War J. The Jewish population was reduced from about 100,000 to a few thousand during World War II. By 1943 most Jews had been forcibly removed to concentration camps in Poland. Most of these perished in the Holocaust and survivors have mostly settled in Israel. The fcw remaining Jews in Greece are centered at Thessaloniki.

Because Jews were Greek citizens, civil registration records include Jewish people (see the "Civil Registration" section of this outline). Although copies of Jewish synagoguc records from Greece arc not currently available at the Family History Library, some published books arc available that might be helpful in gaining background information about these communities. See the Family History Library Catalog under "Jewish Records" and "Jewish History."

#### Gypsies

The Gypsies are an independent, itinerant people who spread from the Balkans and the Middle East throughout Europe. They speak a language called Romany. Gypsies first appeared in Greece in the fourteenth century. They generally adopted the religion of the rulers: Islam under the Ottomans and Christianity under the Greeks. Greece has about 10,000 Gypsies. The majority lead a wandering life, earning their living in blacksmithing and other metal work, animal trading, fortune-telling, and public entertainment.

## NAMES, PERSONAL

Understanding surnames and given names can help you find and identify your ancestors in the records. Because names sometimes changed for many families throughout time, it is important to know **some** of the **customs concerning naming practices in Greece.** 

#### Surnames

Before record keeping began, most people had only one name, such as John. As the population increased, it became necessary distinguish among individuals with the same name. The problem was usually solved by adding descriptive information. John became John the smith, John the son of Matthew, John the short, or John the Athenian. At first, surnames applied only to one person and not to the whole family. After a few generations, these names became hereditary.

Surnames developed from the following major **sources:** 

Patronymic, based on a parent's given name and an addcd suffix meaning "son of" or "little." The ending -opouJos is most common in the Peleponnese area. Thus John the son of Nicholas would be loannis Nikolopoulos. The possessive case (-ou) was also often used as a patronymic resulting in names such as Grigoriou from Grigorios. Other patronymic endings include: -akis (from Crete); -akos, -las, -eas (from the Mani region of south Peloponnesus); -atos (from Kefallinia); -elis (from Lesvos); -ikis, -ikas, -akas (from Thessalia); -oudis (from northern Greece); and -idis (from Asia Minor).

Occupational, based on the person's trade, include the following: Raptis (tailor), Papoutsis (shoemaker), Mylonas (miller), Mylonatos or Mylonopoulous (son of the miller), Karvounis (coal man), Kapetanidis (son of ship captain), Anagnostopoulos (son of the acolyte, assistant priest), Sakellariou (son of the Sakellarios, a Byzantine ecclesiastical title), Kaffetzis (coffee house owner), Kaltsis (stockings, probably one who sold stockings), and Ktcnas (comb, probably one who sold or made combs). The name Karampinopoulos (son of a gun) probably referred to the son of one who bore arms. Priests of the Orthodox Church married and had families. Their children's surnames often begin with Papa- (Priest) and are among the most common in Greece.

Descriptive or nickname, based on a unique quality of the person, such as Mauros (black)

for a person with black hair, dark complexion, or pcrhaps one who wore black clothing. Other such Greek names include Kontos (short), Spanos (beardless), Spanidis or Spanopoulos (son of the beardless one), Xanthakos (blond), Kokkinis (red), Karapaulakis (son of darkhaired Paul), Galanis (blue-eyed), Katsaros (curly), Makris (long), and Koutsogiorgos (lame George). Other names reflect personality traits such as: l.eventis (brave, honorable), Onassis (uscful), Katsoufis (never cheerful), Markogiannis (clever John), and Leontidis (lion's son).

Geographical, based on a person's place of origin, such as Kritikos (Cretan), Thessalonikios (ofThessalonika), Souliotis (of Souli, a region in the Epirus mountains), Arvanitis (Albanian), and Nisiotis (from the islands). From a name such as Kypros (Cyprus) can be formed several names: Kypraios, Kypraiou, Kypriadis, Kypriotis, Kypriotakis, and Kyprizoglou. A name such as Vlahos could refer to the Vlach people (minority ethnic group from the Pindus mountains) or from the occupation of a shepherd, which was the traditional occupation of this people.

Foreign terms, from Turkish, Spanish, Italian, Albanian, and Slavic, could have been modified into a Greek surname: Karas (Turkish: black), Paras (Turkish: moncy), Lekes (Turkish: mark, stain), Katsakis (Turkish: fugitive, escapee), Delapatridis (Italian: of the homeland), and Kolias (Albanian for Nikolaos).

Surnames were first used by the nobility and wealthy land owners. Later the custom was followed by merchants and townspeople and eventually by the rural population. This process took two or three centuries.

The Balkan peninsula, the practice of adopting fixed family surnames developed earlier (Byzantine times) than **in** Western Europe.

Family ties arc very important **in** Greece and extend beyond the immediate family. Family surnames came to be applied to these extended families or elans. This practice developed gradually from the time of the Byzantine empire.

Even after surnames began to be used, a single given name was often all that was ever needed or used in everyday village life. On the other hand, the Greek custom of naming children after their grandparents soon led to many individuals in the same community with the same names. NIcknames were used to distinguish among persons with the **same name.** 

These nicknames devcloped just as the other surnames had started-from fathers' names, occupations, or descriptions. For example, if there were several individuals named Paulos in the Doukas family, one could be called Paulos Kontos (Paulos the short), another might be called Karapaulos (black-haired Paulos), and another might be called Paulos Raptidis (Paulos the tailor's son). The children of these individuals might take the original Doukas surname or might take the nickname. In the next few generations there may be so many individuals in the Karapaulos family with the name loannis that the process starts over agam.

Changing names was not uncommon, especially in villages, until the mid-nineteenth century when Greece won its independence from Turkey. Surnames became much more firmly fixed after that time; however, nicknames became such a part of Greek social life that they sometimes appear in official records. Nevertheless, the adoption of new surnames still occasionally occurred as late as the early I900s.

Most surnames have different endings when the bearer is male or female. For example, a man has the name  $\Pi \alpha \pi \alpha \iota \omega \dot{\alpha} \nu \eta \varsigma$  (Papaioannis). His wife or daughter would be:  $\Pi \alpha \pi \alpha \iota \omega \dot{\alpha} \nu \nu \sigma \upsilon$  (Papaioannou). Some of the most common male and female endings include:

Male	Male	Female	Female
Greek	English	English Greek	
-ος	-OS	-ou	-ou
-ας	-as	-α	-a
-eç	-es	-E	-е
-ης	-IS	-ŋ, -qu	-1, <b>-o</b> u

Grammatical endings can affect all Greek words, including the names of people and places.

#### Patronymics

All Greeks have a patronymic name in addition to their surname. It is formed from the father's given name and is used as a middle name. The father's given name is listed in the possessive form. For example, Georgios, son of Nikolaos Kanakis would be Georgios Nikolaou Kanakis and his sister loanna would be loanna Nikolaou Kanaki. **However, when a woman marries, not only her**  surname changes, but also her middle name changes to her husband's given name.

#### **Given Names**

According to Greek tradition, a child's name is chosen by the godfather. The following pattern may be helpful in researching family groups and determining the parents of the mother and father:

The first male child was usually named for the father's father.

The second boy was named for the mother's father.

The first female child was named for the father's mother.

The second girl was named for the mother's mother.

Additional children were often named for uncles, other relatives, friends, or saints.

This pattern was not always followed as the godfather chose the name, but it can sometimes give clues for the names of grandparents. A son is never named for his father unless the father died prior to the child's birth. Likewise a daughter is never named after her mother unless the mother dies in childbirth. If a child, especially the eldest son, dies young, then another son, born later, would usually be given the same name. If it looked like a young son would die, he might be named  $\Theta \varepsilon 0 \chi \alpha \rho \eta \varsigma$  (Theoharis), meaning "God's grace."

Most of the time when a man joined the clergy, he would receive a new name. If his given name were  $\Sigma \omega \kappa \rho \dot{\alpha} \tau \eta \varsigma$  (Sokratis), he might take the name  $\Pi \alpha \dot{\nu} \lambda \sigma \varsigma$  (Paulos) or some other saint's name. The ordained person is usually called by his surname (or new name) with the prefix  $\Pi \alpha \pi \alpha -$  (Papa-), indicating his title. For example, if his name were  $\Sigma \omega \kappa \rho \dot{\alpha} \tau \eta \varsigma$  (Sokratis Kanakis) and his new name were  $\Pi \alpha \dot{\nu} \lambda \sigma \varsigma$  (Paulos), he would be called  $\Pi \alpha \pi \alpha \pi \alpha \dot{\nu} \lambda \sigma \varsigma$  (Papapanulos) or  $\Pi \alpha \pi \alpha \kappa \alpha \nu \dot{\alpha} \kappa \eta \varsigma$  (Papakanakis), but never  $\Sigma \omega \kappa \rho \dot{\alpha} \tau \eta \varsigma$  (Sokratis) nor  $\Pi \alpha \pi \alpha \Sigma \omega \kappa \rho \dot{\alpha} \tau \eta \varsigma$ (Papasokratis).

Sometimes women were not known by their own given names but by a given name substitute. For example, the name Presvytera might be used in the place of the priest's wife's name. It actually means "the wife of an elder." Another example is if a wife is listed by the name of her husband with the ending  $-\alpha \iota \upsilon \alpha$  (-aina) or  $-\iota \upsilon \alpha$  (-ina). A wife could also be listed by the surname of the husband as if it were a given name. For example, a husband's

surname might be  $K\alpha\rho\alpha\lambda\eta\zeta$  (Karalis), and his wife's given name might be listed as  $K\alpha\rho\alpha\lambda\iota\nu\alpha$  (Karalina).

Also, for every Greek given name, there may exist several variations or nicknames which may appear quite different. For example, the Greek equivalent to Catherine,  $A_{1\kappa\alpha\tau\epsilon\rho}(\nu\eta)$  (Aikaterini) may have the following possible variations:  $K\alpha(\tau\eta)$  (Kaiti),  $K\alpha\tau(\kappa\alpha)$  (Katina),  $K\alpha\tau\epsilon\rho(\nu\alpha)$  (Katerina),  $K\alpha\tau(\lambda\omega)$ (Katilo),  $K\alpha\tau\tau\nu\iota\omega$  (Katinio). Likewise, the Greek equivalent to John,  $I\omega\dot{\alpha}\nu\nu\eta\varsigma$  (Joannis) has at least the following variations:  $\Gamma\iota\dot{\alpha}\nu\nu\eta\varsigma$  (Giannis),  $\Gamma\iota\dot{\alpha}\nu\kappa\varsigma\zeta$  (Giagkos),  $\Gamma\iota\alpha\nu\nu\alpha\kappa\dot{\varsigma\varsigma}$  (Giannakos), and  $\Gamma\iota\alpha\nu\nu\epsilon\dot{\lambda}\varsigma\varsigma$  (Giannelos).

Some books are available that discuss names in Greece. A description of Greek naming practices and given names is:

*Greek Personal Names.* Washington, D.C.: Central Intelligence Agency, 1961. (FHL book 949.5 D4u; film 1344072; computer number 0264687).

For descendants of a Greek immigrant to the United States, it may be a problem to determine the actual name of an immigrant ancestor. Some immigrants were so eager to be assimilated into Americao life, that they dropped their Greek names and adopted American names. Given names were generally translated to their closest equivalents: Ioannis to John, Paulos to Paul, Euaggelia to Angela. Sometimes where there was not an equivalent English name, the new name does not represent the original name at all: Athanasios might have become Bill or Joe.

Surnames were likewise anglicized. Many were simply shortened, as in cases where Papageorgiou or Papanikolaou became Papas, or Hristopoulos or Nikolopoulos became Poulos, or Anagnostopoulos became Agnew (as in the family of a fonner vicepresident of the United States). Sometimes only the spelling changed, as in Karydids to Caridis. The name may have been translated, as in Raptis to Taylor or loannatos to Johnson. The spelling may have also been changed so the name was easier to pronounce, as in Grigoriou to Gregory.

## NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization is the process of granting citizenship privileges and responsibilities to residents. Greek citizenship was generally extended by individual cities to certain of their inhabitants and did not pertain to the country as a whole. Until the twentieth century, only males of the middle or upper classes were granted citizenship. A citizen had privileges that included:

Rights to engage in business in a city Protections under the law

• Pennission to reside in a city without being expelled

Citizenship records include infonnation about the citizen, including names, ages, social and **economic status, occupation and training, and,** sometimes, birthplaces and relationships.

The original citizenship books are generally kept by the city and may be found in city archives or city halls. Citizenship records from the GAK in Athens have been filmed:

I'v'aturalization of Immigrants and Surname Changes 1844-1899. Athens: National Historical Archives (Genika Archeia tou Kratous - GAK), n.r (On 39 FHL films beginning with 1038686 items 2-4; computer number 0454789.)

Naturalization records in the United States may be an excellent source for determining the specific town or city where your ancestor was born, especially records after 1906. (See the "Naturalization and Citizenship" section of the *United States Research Outline* [30972].) Table 4

## NOBILITY

During the Byzantine years, the noble class fonned a small percent of Greece's population. The kings rewarded persons who performed heroic deeds or notable achievements, or who held prominent positions in government, by granting them a noble title.

During the Ottoman rule in Greece, Turkish titles were given. Those who lived in foreign countries of Europe may also have been given titles. In modern Greece titles of nobility are not recognized. Still, the noble class has been anxious to preserve their identity. This has led to the publication of many noble lines, and references to nobility may be found in published or manuscript genealogies of noble families.

If your surname is one of those noble lines, you need to prove relationship. Often those who were in the service of a noble man were called by the nobleman's surname. Later generations might assume they were part of the nobleman's family when in reality they are related to servants of that family.

See also the "Heraldry" and "Genealogy" sections of this outline. The Family History Library has

collected some published books on noble families. An example of a published genealogy on a noble family is the following:

#### Nicol, Donald M. *The Byzantine Family of Kantakouzenos (Cantacuzenus) ca. 1100-1460: a Genealogical and Prosopographical Study,* Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies, 1968. (FHL book 949.5 D3n; computer number 0265244.)

Another published book at the Family History Library lists noble families of Kerkyra from the 1470s onward. Other published genealogies of prominent noble families can be found in the Family History Library Catalog under:

GREECE - NOBILITY

## **NOTARIAL RECORDS**

In Greece, all legal transactions are recorded by notary offices (*Symvolaiograjeion*). Notaries kept records such as dowry contracts (*proikoa*), wills (*diathiki*), and land transfer contracts. Some notary offices have files of contracts dating as early as 1400.

These records arc kept in private notary offices. Access depends on the current notary. A fee will be charged for copies of contracts.

Land records may also be found in a government land ownership office (*Ypothikofylakeion*). These offices can be accessed only by attorneys.

The only notary records that are available at the Family History Library are for the town of Argos, Argolidos, Greece from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

## PERIODICALS

Most genealogical and historical societies publish magazines and newsletters. The articles often include the following:

Family genealogies and pedigrees

• Transcripts of church records, migration lists, and cemetery records

Helpful articles on research methodology

Information about local records, archives, and **servIces** 

Book advertisements and book reviews

Research advertisements

Queries or requests for information about specific ancestors that can help you contact other interested researchers

#### North American Periodicals

There are societies of Greek immigrants from various localities in Greece that publish periodicals (see the "Societies" section of this outline). These arc often published quarterly and may focus on the immigrants to a particular **region, county, or town.** 

A genealogical periodical that is helpful for general Greek research information is published by the Greek Association of Family History and Tradition (SIPEO):

Reezes: Newsletter orthe Greek Association of Family Hil'tory and Tradition (SIPEOj. Salt Lake City, Utah: Greek Association of Family History and Tradition, 1992-. (FHL book 949.5 D25r; film 2055161 item 48; computer number 0581190.) This newsletter contains helpful articles on research methodology; information about local records, archives and services; and book reviews.

#### **Greek Periodicals**

Societies and organizations in Greece publish genealogical periodicals in Greek. Much of their content is devoted to compiled genealogies of native families. They also are an excellent place to publish queries or advertisements regarding an ancestor from Greece. An example of one periodical is:

Δελτίον Εραλδικής και Γενεαλογικής Εταιρίας Ελλάδος (Deltion Eraldikis kai Genealogikis Etairias Ellados - Bulletin of the Heraldic and Genealogical Society of Greece). Athinai: Ekdosis Eraldikis kai Genealogikis Etairias Ellados, 1979-. (FHL book 949.5 D25d; computer number 0047412.)

In addition, publications arc available from regional societies, and major archives with genealogical collections will have copies of many periodicals, particularly those representing the area they serve. The town halls of each town usually can provide information about those societies and their locations. See also the "Societies" section of this outline.

## PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records arc court records that describe the distribution of a person's estate after he or she dies. Information in the records may include the death date, names of heirs and guardians, relationships, residences, an inventory of the estate, and names of witnesses.

Various wills, dowry contracts, settlements, and other such documents from the 1600s to the 1900s were included with church records of the Catholic church in the county of Kykladon, Greece. These can be found in the Family History Library catalog under:

#### GREECE, KYKLADON, [TOWN] - PROBATE RECORDS

In other parts of Greece, such records were generally kept by a notary public (sec the "Notarial Records" section in this outline).

The Greek Orthodox Church had the responsibility of keeping probate records for Greek residents of other eastern European countries during Ottoman rule. The Family History Library has microfilmed probate records of Greeks in Albania in the Greek diocese records. These can be found in the catalog under the country of Albania and the heading "Church Records."

#### **SCHOOLS**

Greeks have long treasured education as a channel for social mobility and a way of recovering their glorious past and of achieving national progress. Modern revival of education started in the eighteenth century under Ottoman rule, but it was not until 1929 that education was made compulsory at the primary lcvcl. In 1964 education was made frcc at all levels.

If your ancestor was educated in the universities of Greecc, he or she may have been recorded in the matriculation records of that school. These records may contain valuable information about your ancestor, including name, age, hometown, date of enrollment, and date of graduation. Sometimes they contain biographical information, such as names of parents, spouse, and children.

The Family History Library has collected a fcw school records, mainly intenmediate and high school records. These records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

GREECE - SCHOOLS GREECE, [COUNTY] - SCHOOLS GREECE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - SCHOOLS Registration records, lists of students and their grades, and certificates from the early twentieth century have been filmed from the General Archives of Nauplion for the county of Argolidos and can be found in the catalog under:

#### GREECE, ARGOLIDOS, [TOWN] -SCHOOLS

School records from Asia Minor were brought to Greece by the refugees and were microfilmed there. These can be found in the catalog under Turkey.

### SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS

Effective family research requires some understanding of the society in which your ancestor lived. Research procedures and genealogical sources are different for each area and time period and are affected by local customs and traditions. Learning about everyday life, religious practices, customs, and traditions is particularly helpful if you choose to write a history of your family.

The family has always played a crucial role in Greek society, extending beyond a married couple to extended relatives, and commanding a loyalty that overrode duty to other groups. Cultivation of land and running of businesses tended to be family enterprises. Daughters generally received dowries.

A study of social life in the town of Vasilika, county of Voiotias, may give some background on rural life in Greece:

Friedl, Erncstine. Vasilika: A Village in Modern Greece, New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1962. (FHL book 949.51/V1 H6f; computer number 0405837.)

You may also find several additional sources about Greek social life at a public or university library. A bibliography of several interesting publications on this subject is found in the following book:

 Sanders, Irwin T. East European Peasantries: Social Relations: An Annotated Bibliography of Periodical Articles, Vol. 2. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1981 (55-62). (FHL book 940 H63s; computer number 0305181.)

## SOCIETIES

There are many societies and organizations that may have information of value to your research. There are a few such societies in Greece, the United States, and other countries and areas where Greeks emigrated, such as Egypt, South Africa, South America, Europe, and Australia.

Most of these societies publish helpful periodicals, transcripts, and compiled genealogies, and they may have special indexes, collections, and projects. They may publish queries about Greek **ancestors or maintain a list of members' research** interests. Some specialize in the immigrants to a specific area. You may find it helpful to join one of these societies and support their efforts.

The following societies may be of interest:

Historical and Ethnological Society Old Palace Constitution Square Athens, Greece

Heraldic and Genealogical Society of Greece 3rd Septemvriou Street #56, Mouseion Athens, Greece Tel. 822-2077 (Offices are open only on Thursdays 6-8 P.M. Time in Greece is 7 hours ahead of eastern time, and 9 hours ahead of mountain time.)

Greek Association of Family History and Tradition - SIPEO P.O. Box 711027 Salt Lake City, UT 84171 TcI: (801) 569-9201 E-mail: lica@sipeo.org Internet: www.sipeo.org

The addresses of many ethnic heritage historical societies in North America are given in:

Smith, Betty P. Directory: Historical Agencies in North America. 13th ed. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1986. (FHL book 970 H24d 1986; compuler number 0491569.)

Wheeler, Mary Bray, ed. *Directory oj Historical* Organizations in the United States and Canada, 14th ed. Nashville, Tenn.: American Association for State and Local History, 1990. (FHL book 970 H24d 1990; computer number 531083.)

Many regional societies in Greece are groups where people from a town or region associate and get news of others from the same area. For example, the society for Greeks from Pelasgia (*Svllogos Pelasgioton*) is located in Athens. Pelasgia is a town in the county Fthiotidos. There is also a society of Greeks from Fthiotidos (*Syllogos Fthioton*) county located in Athens. There are also societies of Greek immigrants who carne from various localities in Greece. Identifying immigrant Greek societies from a particular region or town of Greece can be difficult. You can contact the Greek embassy for possible addresses of such groups. For example, there are organizations for Greeks from Kythira or Sparta.

Additional information on societies and other sources of information about Greece arc in:

Wasserman, Paul, and Alice E. Kennington, eds., *Ethnic information Sources of the United States*, 2d ed. Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co., 1983. (FHL Ref973 F24w.)

#### TAXATION

Not many tax records for Greece have been filmed by the Family History Library. Two exceptions are tax records for farmers in Nauplion(1842-1862), and a tax list for Argostolion that was collected by the grand duke of Yenicc (text in Italian).

Other tax records may be available in archives in Greece and may give information such as a list of households in a town at a particular time and what social-economic status your family had in comparison with others of that community. They also give interesting historical insights about the local history of the region.

#### **OTHER RECORDS OF GREECE**

The topics listed below can be found in the Locality section of the Family History Library Catalog after the locality:

GREECE - [TOPIC] GREECE, [COUNTY] - [TOPIC] GREECE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - [TOPIC]

Though not discussed in this outline, the following catalog topics may be useful to your research:

Bibliography Colonization Description and Travel Ethnology Military History Names, Geographical Occupations Officials and Employees

### FOR FURTHER READING

More detailed information about research and records of Greece can be found in:

Catsakis, Lica (Bywater). *Greek Genealogical Research.* 2d ed. Salt Lake City, Utah: Thc Greek Association of Family History and Tradition (SIPEO), 1992. (FHL book 949.5 D27b 1992; film I183684 itcm 2; fichc 6068522; computer number 0699128.)

## **COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

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

Publications Coordination Family History Library 35 North West Temple Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400 USA We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

© 2001 by The Church of Jesus Christ afLatter-day Saints. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA English approval: 5/00

No part of this document may be reprinted, posted on-line, or reproduced in any form for any purpose without the prior written permission of the publisher. Send all requests fUf such permission to:

Copyrights and Permissions Coordinator Family and Church History Department 50 E. North Temple Street Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400 USA Fax: 1-801-240-2494

FamilyScarch is a trademark of Intellectual Reserve, Inc.

Date: 01-02

**GREEK RESEARCH** The primary sources for genealogical research in Greece are births. marriages, and deaths recorded by churches or by the civil government. The Family History library has microfilmed vital records for some areas of Greece. The library has acquired church records and civil registration from the islands of Kerkyra (Corfu), Paxi, Ithake, Kephallenia and Ieukas. Some records in Athens have also been microfilmed. You will find these records listed in the locality section of the Family History library Catalog (FHIC). There are still many areas of Greece. especially on the mainland. from which the Family History library has not yet been able to acquire records. If the library has not microfilmed records from your ancestor's place of origin, you will need to write for genealogical information. For a guide to genealogical research in Greece consult *Greek* Genea/ogical Research by lica Catsakis Bywater and Daniel M.

*Genea/ogical Research* by lica *Catsakis* Bywater and Daniel M. Schlyter. This is an unpublished manuscript available on fiche *6.053,540*. This book includes information about records from Greece at the Family History library. It also contains information about the history. emigration records. and the province/county structure of Greece. It tells how to locate specific places. An explanation of how and where to write for information, and form letters to use in making requests are also included. Finally, there are chapters with information about the Greek Language and about Greek names and naming customs.

Family History Centers Memorandum. Nov. 1988, Vol. 10, No. 3



The mist in the eyes of Spyros Lontos added to the hazy view of the barren rocks of Cape Matapan as the ship was rapidly leaving behind the southernmost tip of Greece in 1913. Only 16 years old, he together with his father and brother Nicos were chosen by the rest of the family to leave for America, to "pick up the gold from the streets of New York," to help pay the debts of the large family in the small village in Peloponnesos.

The grey skies of New York were the constant companion to the peddling of fruits by Spyros in the teeming streets of the metropolis. Every week he would take the money to his father who with his brother helped in the small restaurant of an uncle. If nothing else, the dream of returning soon to the motherland sweetened the long hours of work and the lonely evenings in the small tenement.

In ten years enough money was collected for the father to return. Spyros was left behind to work more and to send a regular remittance for the dowry of the sisters. He opened his own small grocery store with the help of his new father in law, who had arranged through the uncle to have a **proxenio** in offering Maria to marriage. Years later, Maria would relate with a chuckle to Spyros, the detail of the arrangement, the haggling over the **proika** (dowry) and the furtive glances of the blushing girl as she met her future husband for the first time.

America was good to Spyros. He moved to a smaller city in Pennsylvania, and opened a cafeteria with business booming. The four children that came along made him fiercely proud for what he called "the useful citizens I gave to the big country." His first, George, became the M.D. that his mother so feverishly wished. And what a feast and dancing at his marriage with the beautiful ("and Greek by God!") daughter of Poulos. His second, Pericles, became a lawyer, sharp always and handsome but he married the "foreigner." ("Yet, he keeps the customs and they have baptized the children in the Greek church," Spyros murmurs occasionally.) Kostas, his third, keeps the store going, now that the parents are getting older, shrewd businessman on his way up. And the last, the only girl, Helen, the pride of the family, is just finishing the University. Her father and mother are only praying for the "good Greek boy to come along, to dance in a Greek wedding once again..."

This summer, forty years later, Spyros will return with Helen to Greece. He has to see the family back "home," sit at the coffeehouse in the village square, reminisce about the good old days, and tell all how good and big are things in "Amerika." And if... Helen meets a good boy in the "motherland" that would make the return trip even happier with a Greek son-in-law back in the States.

#### JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Covert, Alice Lent. "Chronicle of Americanization," Reader's Digest, 50 (February, 1947), pp. 51-54.

A sketch from the life of a Greek immigrant restaurant owner, the reasons for his coming, the variety of work involved, and the eventual settling at "Jamesport,"

Frantzis, George Th. Strangers at Ithaca; The Story of the Spongers of Tarpon Springs. St. Petersburg: Great Outdoors Publishing, 1966.

A sympathetic but episodic account of one of the early Greek communities.

Kazan, Elia. America, America. New York: Stein and Day, 1962.

The vividly sketched odyssey of a young Greek boy in Turkey to get to America and the semi-autobiographical rugged trek to the land of opportunity were turned later on into a highly successful movie with the same title.

Maisel, Albert Q. "The Greeks Among Us," Readers Digest, 67 (July, 1955), pp. 113-118.

A short, descriptive, and impressionistic account of the Greek presence in American life with vignettes of some typical immigrants,

Papanikolas, Helen Z. "The Greeks of Carbon County," Utah Historical Quarterly, 22 (1954), pp. 143-164.

In addition to traditional items on the immigrant experience, there is also a description of the feelings and actions against Greeks in Utah.

Stycos, J. M."Spartan Greeks of Bridgetown," Common Ground, 8 (1948), No. 2:61-70, No. 3:24-34, No. 4:72-86.

Even-handed presentation of everyday life of Greek immigrants, customs and celebrations.

Thompson, Ariadne. Octagonal Heart. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1956.

Delightful reminiscences of a Greek-American childhood spent in St, Louis,

Vardoulakis, Mary. Gold in the Street. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1945.

An insightful, well-written fictional account of the reason for emigrating from the island of Crete and the eventual settlement and adjustment in the community of Chicoppee, Massachusetts.

Xenides, J. P. The Greeks in America. New York: George H. Doran, 1922. Reprinted, San Francisco: R. and E. Research Associates, 1972.

A clergyman's account of Greek immigrants derived primarily from personal contacts.

#### UNDERGRADUATE

Abbott, Grace. "A Study of the Greeks in Chicago," American Journal of Sociology, 25 3 (November 1909), pp. 349-393.

An early analysis of the first Greek immigrants in Chicago with particular emphasis on the problems of adjustment of peasants to a highly industrialized society.

Adamic, Louis. From Many Lands. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1940.

Vignettes of immigrants experience within an underlying theme of the multi-dimensional qualities of ethnic groups in America. The dream of building a new society is also underscored in the selection, "Greeks Came to Tarpon Springs," pp. 116-131.

Balk, Helen H. "Economic Contributions of the Greeks to the United States." Economic Georgraphy 19 (July, 1943), pp. 270-275.

One of the few and limited analyses on the role of Greek immigrants in the economic life of the nation.

Burgess, Thomas. Greeks in America. Boston: Sherman French and Co., 1913. Reprinted, San Francisco: R. an E. Research Associates, 1970.

An early work with interesting information from both primary and secondary sources, as well as information from the rank and file of Greek communities. Useful in particular for an account of early organizations and the development of the Orthodox church in America.

Fairchild, Henry P. Greek Immigration to the United States. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1911.

The first work on the topic in English, but full of anti-Greek bias, stemming from an atipathy to the highly clannish life of the early Greek immigrants. Valuable, however, for a description of socio-economic conditions in Greece which caused so many to migrate.

Georges, Robert A. "Greeks of Tarpon Springs: An American Folk Group," Southern Folklore Quarterly, 29 (June, 1965), pp. 129-191.

A more scholarly, anthropological study of the Greek-American folklore,

Hutchinson, E. P. Immigrants and Their Children, 1850-1950. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1956.

The 1950 Census is used as a backdrop for a detailed and insightful analysis of the foreign-born population as well as their children with particularly useful remarks on the influence of immigration on the population and economic growth of the United States.

Kourides, Peter T. The Evolution of the Greek Orthodox Church in America and its Present Problems. New York: Greek Archdiocese of North and South America, 1959.

One of the standard small volumes on the growth of the Orthodox Church in the U.S.

Kourvetaris, George. First and Second Generation Greeks in Chicago. Athens: National Centre of Social Research, 1971.

A short sociological study on social and occupational mobility, intergenerational career patterns, and social acculturation among Greek-Americans in Chicago.

Panagopoulos, E. P. New Smyrna; An Eighteenth Century Greek Odyssey. Gainesville, Florida: University of Florida Press, 1966.

A personalized description of the earliest Greek settlement in this continent.

Petrakis, Harry Mark. Lion at My Heart. Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1959.

The first in a whole line of successful fictional accounts of Greek-American lives, with central theme generational conflict and adaptations to the surrounding culture. Others include, The Odyssey of Kostas Volakis (1963), A Dream of Kings (1966), as well as collections of short stories.

Saloutos, Theodore. They Remember America: The Story of the Repatriated Greek-Americans. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1956.

In addition to the adaptation efforts of returning migrants, this volume offers insights as to the meaning of America in the life of repatriated Greek-Americans.

The Greeks in America; A Student's Guide of Localized History. New York: Teachers College Press, 1967.

Useful and succinct bibliographical summary.

#### **GRADUATE STUDENTS AND GENERAL SCHOLARS**

Cutsumbis, Michael N. A Bibliographic Guide to Materials on Greeks in the United States, 1890-1968. New York: Center for Migration Studies, 1970.

A chronological bibliography with its major strength being the list of Parish and other unpublished material. An indication after each entry as to where material is to be found would be useful for specialized researchers.

Gavaki, Efrosini. "The Integration of Greeks in Canada." Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Indiana University (1970).

A recent scholarly attempt relating the opportunities as well as the problems associated with the process of Greek immigrant adjustment, Useful in juxtaposing recent Canadian with earlier American immigrant experiences.

Georges, Robert A. "Greek-American Folk Beliefs and Narratives, Survival and Living Tradition." Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Indiana University (1964).

Field data collected in six American communities revolve around the hypothesis that Greek-Americans have not abandoned their traditional beliefs since their arrival in the New World. The author has continued to write extensively on the topic of Greek-American folklore.

Polyzos, Nicon Essai sur l'emigration Grecque: Ètude demographique, economique et sociale. Paris, 1947.

Despite sweeping generalizations this is the only effort of offering a coherent, systematic scheme and overview of Greek emigration.

Saloutos, Theodore. The Greeks in the United States. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1964.

The standard work on the topic, Well-written with abundant documentation, insightful commentary and skillful combination of large historical data with examples of the immigrant experience. Most useful are also the chapters on the political and socio-cultural conditions in Greece that motivated the transatlantic migration at the end of the century.

Tavuchis, Nicholas. Front and the transformed of tr

A scholarly study showing the rapid social mobility among a sample of Greek-American families.

Theodoratus, Robert James. A Greek Community in America: Tacoma, Washington. Sacramento, California: Sacramento Anthropological Society (Paper No. 10, mimeo), 1971.

A detailed examination of immigrant ties with the homeland and the emerging Greek-American culture.

Valaoras, V. Ho Hellenismes ton Enomenon Politeion (Hellenism in the United States). Athens: P. Leoni Press, 1937.

An early account of one of the few Greek population experts mixing data and personal observation. Useful in pointing out the rapid process of assimilation.

Vlachos, Evangelos. The Assimilation of Greeks in the United States. Athens: National Centre of Social Researches, 1968.

A sociological study on the forces of assimilation, both national and local

A sociological study on the forces of assimilation, both national and local and the patterns of immigrant adjustment over time. A case study of the Greek community in Anderson, Indiana, focuses on the assimilative experiences of three generations of Greek-Americans.

Vlassis, George. The Greeks in Canada. (2nd edition) Ottowa: Privately printed, 1954.

A descriptive account with profiles of noted Greek settlers in Canada and the major source so far of the history of early Greek migratory stream in this country.

- Krikos, A. Metanasteusis Hellenon pros ton neon Kosmon (Greek emigration to the new World). Athens. Part of a series of volumes in Greek describing the direction, composition, and character of Greek emigration to North America.
- Malafouris, Bambi. Hellenes tes Amerikes, 1528-1948 (Greeks in America). New York: Privately Printed, 1948.

Useful volume on early Greek migrants, marred however with congratulatory essays on prominent Greek-Americans who contributed to the publication of this volume.

Papanicolas, Helen Zees. "The Fortress and the Prison," Utah Humanities Review, I (1947), pp. 134-146.

A literary sketch of the problems and customs of Greek-Americans as part of a projected novel by the author.

Utah Valley Regional Genealogical Library 4386 HBLL, BYU Provo, Utah 84602 801/378-6200

The Balch Institute's subject specialties – American immigration and ethnic group history – are interpreted by various library, museum, community affiars, research and educational programs. For further information on reading list schedules and bulk rates, contact The Balch Institute, Philadelphia, Pa. 19106.

MONTHS OF THE YEAR IN THE LANGUAGES

MPE Baltic, Illyric, Hellenic// Finno-Ugric

English	Lithuanian	Latvian,	Albanian,	Greek /	// Hungarian	Estonian	Finnish
January	sausio menuo	janvaris	Kallnuer or Janar	'Ιανουάριος Γανογαιίου	január boldog asszon hava	y jaanua <b>r</b> näärikuu	tamnikuu
February	vazario menuo	februaris	Fruer or Shkurt	Φυβρουώριος Febroyarios	február böjtelő hava	vecbruar kuunlakuu	helmikuu
March	kovo menuo	marts	Mavs	Máptios Martios	március bötmás hava	märts paastukuu	raaliskuu
April	balandžio menuo	aprilis	Prill	'Απρέλιος Aprilios	április szent György hava	aprill jürikuu	huhtikuu
May	gegužes menuo	maijs	Maj	Máïos Maios	május pünkösd hava	mai lehekuu	tcukokuu
June	birželio menuo	junijs	Qcrshuer	'Ιούνιος Ioynios	junius szent Ivan hava	juuni jaanikuu	kesäkuu
July	liepos menuo	julijs	Korrik	'Ioulios	jūlius szent Jakob hava	juuli heinakuu	hcinäkuu
August	rugpiučio тепио	augusts	Gusht	Λὔγουστος Aygoystos	augusztus kis asszony hava	august lõikuskuu	olokuu
September	rugsejo menuo	septembris	Shtatuer	Σεπτέμβριος Septembrios	szeptember szent Mihaly kava	september mihklikuu	syyskuu
October	spalio menuo	oktobris	Tetuer	<ul> <li>Οχτώβριος</li> <li>Oktōbrios</li> </ul>	oktõber mindszent hava	oktoober viinakuu	lokakuu
November	lapričio menuo	novembris	Nanduer	Noéµβριos Noembrios	november szent András hava	novembcr talvekuu	marra skuu
December	gruodžio menuo	decembris	Dhietuer	Δεχέμβριος	december karacsony	detsember :~.,7-,1,-,	zoulukuu

## Other Resources Greece

Cyndi's List Greece Links http://www.cyndislist.com/greece.htm

Greek Genealogy-Family History http://www.greekgenealogy.org/

FamilySearch Wiki www.familysearchwiki.org