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 see Using the Family History Library Catalog (30966).

References to other Family History Library Publications

The Family History Library has many other publications that may be helpful to you in your research. Some are referred to in this outline. Their titles are in italics and their item numbers are in 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 Library's 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 FamilySearch™, 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 country 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 for:

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

Video: How to Use the Family History Library Catalog (53191).
The table below can help you decide which records to search.

1. In column 1 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.

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</tbody>
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*The border between the county Peiraios and Attikis varied at different periods of time.
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 genealogical 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.

If you plan to visit one of these repositories, contact the organization and ask for information 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)
- County Offices (Νομαρχείον - Nomarheion)
- District Offices (Επαρχείον - Eparheion)
- Municipal/Community Archives (Δημοτικά/Κοινωνικά Αρχεία - Dimotika/Koinotika Archeia)

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 Venizelou 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 copies 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/Κοινωνικά Αρχεία - Dimotika/Koinotika Archeia)

In Greece each municipality or community has its own archives under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior (Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών). 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 municipal archives are the following:

- Birth, marriage, and death records
- Town registers
- Book of Municipal Personnel
- Book of Relatives of Deceased Persons
- Family status records (οικογενειακά κατάσταση)

The municipal archives of Greece are not open to the public. You may be granted special permission to search these records from the mayor or the clerk. This will vary from one archive to another.

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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, see 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
(Στρατιωτικά 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
(Ιερεί Μιτροπολίτ - Jera Mitropolis)

Greek Orthodox church records of marriages are kept in bishops’ offices (episkopi). A church officer called a metropolite is over a diocese (metropolis). 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 information 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 years, after which the remains are exhumed and placed in an ossuary (osseofj'lakeion) in a building at the cemetery. In larger cities some families 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 cemetery 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 information.

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 Ioannes 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 Family History Library include some giving more family 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).

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

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

- 1948 census of Armenians in Thessaloniki and 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 information recorded in church books varied over time. The later records generally give more complete information than the earlier ones.

The most important church records for genealogical research are 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. If no 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 information varies. The original certificates that were provided by the bride 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 diocesan 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.)

Διπτυχα της Εκκλησίας της Ελλάδος 1995

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 (remnants 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 (eparhia) of Kythiron (1660s and 1700s-1865). Church records from the diocese of Halkidos, Thivon and Levadias, and Rethymni 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 are 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:

1. 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 are 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 forms 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 occupation, 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 (Μητρώων 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 are listed chronologically by the date of birth. Some male registers in the counties of Evvoias 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 of family 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 are 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, [COUNTRY] - CIVIL REGISTRATION
- GREECE, [COUNTRY], [DISTRICT] - CIVIL REGISTRATION
- GREECE, [COUNTRY], [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, a list 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 are 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 (Athinai-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 are 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 you find church dioceses and parishes. See the "Church Directories" section of this outline.

EMISSION 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, lists 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 immigrated 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 information. 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 economic.

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 are 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 classes 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).

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 1890s that substantial Greek communities were established in the United States.

At the close 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.)


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 help 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, 1885-1910: 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 immigrant Origins (34111) research outline.

Immigration into Greece

Significant numbers of ethnic Greek refugees were removed to Greece following World War I. 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 of Refugees from Marmara, Turkey. Halkis, Greece: General Archives of Greece, n.f. (FHL film 1792803 items 26-27; computer number 0763533.)

Refugee Records, 1921-1984. 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 préparatoire pour le repatriation des Arméniens de Grece, 1947 (List for the Repatriation of Armenians of Greece). Athens: Armenian Orthodox Archives, n.f. (FHL films 1038668 items 3-9, 1038669 items 1-2, 1038672 item 1; 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:


For information on language dictionaries, see 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 gazetteer, 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 (Nnomos), districts (Eparhia), diocese (Mitropoli), and most of the municipalities (Dimos/Koinotis) of Greece:


This is the first volume of a three volume set. The second volume will include all locality names, listing 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:


This gazelleer lists alphabetically the name of all the localities and geographic features in Greece transliterated to the English alphabet. Non-standard 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 written differently from today. For some research purposes, such as correspondence, it is useful to learn modern jurisdictions for the area where your ancestors lived. This may also be helpful when finding the ancestral town on modern 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:

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 find in the above gazetteers include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greek</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>βλ</td>
<td>see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>δήμοι</td>
<td>municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Επισκοπείον</td>
<td>court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>επαρχίαν</td>
<td>district (eparhia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Επιφάνεια είς τ. χμ.</td>
<td>surface in square kilometers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kat. | Katv. | κοινότητες | κοινότητες | κοινότητες | κοινότητες | communities |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>μητρ.</td>
<td>Μητρόπολιν</td>
<td>νομού</td>
<td>Νομόν</td>
<td>Οικισμοί</td>
<td>πληθ.</td>
<td>πληθυσμός</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>residents</td>
<td>community (koinotis)</td>
<td>diocese</td>
<td>county (nomos)</td>
<td>localities, towns</td>
<td>population</td>
<td>population</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 find 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:

Λεξικών των Δήμων, Κοινοτήτων και Οικισμών της Ελλάδος (Lexikon ton Dimon, Koinotiton kai Oikismon tis Ellados - Dictionary 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 (Μερος 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 I.

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.
Internet

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:

- 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:


Books from the towns of Petrina (in the county of Lakonias) and Laukos (in the county of Magnisias) include genealogical information 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, determine 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
Mouscioni, 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 books. Examples of these published books for the county of Kerkiras and the island of Zakynthos include:


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:


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

GREECE-HERALDRY
GREECE, [COUNTY] - HERALDRY

See the "Nobility" section of this outline.
Greece is traditionally divided into 10 regions:

- Central Greece
- Peloponnesus
- Thessaly
- Macedonia
- Epirus
- Thrace
- 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greek</th>
<th>Transliterated</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>νομός</td>
<td>nomos</td>
<td>county</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>επαρχία</td>
<td>eparhia</td>
<td>district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>δήμος</td>
<td>dimos</td>
<td>municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>κοινότης</td>
<td>koinotis</td>
<td>community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

Systaseos kai Exelixeos ton Dimon Kai koinotiton /836-939, kai tis dioiktikis diaireseos tou kranou - 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.)

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B.C.</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>146</td>
<td>Rome conquered Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 285</td>
<td>Rome divided with two capitals one in Rome and one in Byzantium (Greek city later renamed Constantinople)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1453</td>
<td>Constantinople fell to the Turks and became the capital of the Ottoman Empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>Greek war of independence against Ottoman rule began</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1827</td>
<td>Greek independence achieved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1832</td>
<td>Monarchy established over Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>Ionian Islands ceded to Greece by Great Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>Thessaly and part of Epirus ceded to Greece by Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Crete, Macedonia, and the Aegian Islands ceded to Greece by Turkey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Family History Library has some published national, regional, 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 can 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 areas in Greece. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Western Thrace ceded to Greece by Bulgaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Eastern Thrace and part of Asia Minor granted to Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Eastern Thrace and part of Asia Minor returned to Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Dodecanese Islands ceded to Greece by Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Monarchy abolished; Greece declared a republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Greece became tenth member of the European Community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 miscalculated in the Julian calendar. By 1582, the calendar was 10 days behind the solar year.

The Julian calendar changed to the Gregorian calendar in Greece in 1923-1924, at which time the calendar 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:


A wonderful conversion calendar that converts days from our modern 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

When the French Empire under Napoleon 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 materials 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-letter 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greek</th>
<th>Preferred</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Α α</td>
<td>Aa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Β β</td>
<td>Vv</td>
<td>Bb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Γ γ Δ δ</td>
<td>Gg</td>
<td>YY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EE</td>
<td>Ec</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ζ ζ</td>
<td>Zz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η η Θ θ</td>
<td>I i</td>
<td>E e, Ee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ι i</td>
<td>I i</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Κ κ Κk</td>
<td>Kk</td>
<td>Cc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Λ λ</td>
<td>Ll</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Μ μ</td>
<td>Mm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ν ν</td>
<td>Nn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ξ ξ</td>
<td>Xx</td>
<td>Ks ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ο ο</td>
<td>Oo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Π π Pp</td>
<td>Pp</td>
<td>Rh rh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ρ ρ Rr</td>
<td>Rr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Σ σ ζζ</td>
<td>Ss</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Τ τ Tt</td>
<td>Tt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Τ ζ τζ</td>
<td>Tz tz</td>
<td>J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Υ υ Υy</td>
<td>Yy</td>
<td>I i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Φ φ</td>
<td>Ff</td>
<td>Ph ph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Χ χ Hh</td>
<td>Ch ch, Kh kh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ψ ψ Ps</td>
<td>Ps ps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ω ω</td>
<td>Oo</td>
<td>ì ì</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*When this letter follows another vowel (α, έ, α) 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 (SPEO), 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:

DivlivY'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 book 489.3321 J261c; film
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 are an important source to locate the places where your ancestors lived. They help you see the neighboring towns and geographic features of the area your ancestor came from. Some Greek maps indicate the county (nolllos).

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 included in gazetteers, guidebooks, local histories, and history texts.

There are 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, Kerkyra is known as Coril 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 are 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 using 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 are published by the Greek government and usually show county and district boundaries. A very good German military map also includes Greece (scale 1:200,000) and uses the Roman alphabet:

Generalkarte von Mitteleuropa (General Maps of Middle Europe). Wien: Bundesamt fur Eich- und Vermessungswesen, 1889-1967. (FHL maps 940 E7bm; film 1181580, item 1; computer number 0041480.)

Another excellent map of Greece shows place names in 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 each 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 are 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.geocities.com/Athens/Parthenon/4773/MAPS.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 armed forces in Greece when 21 years of age. Attempting to escape military service is punishable by death. In some cases the service 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 *a prostatis* (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 armed forces beyond the required term of service may be found in family records, biographies, census, probate records, and civil registration.

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

The armed forces records you may find include:

- Draft lists
- Personnel files
- Regimental account books
- Pay vouchers and records
- Pension records

**Records of leave**

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

To use Greek military records, determine the year 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 least the town where your ancestor was born.

**Military History**

Greece was involved in the following military actions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1365-1453</td>
<td>Ottoman Empire conquered Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1770-1779</td>
<td>Albanian troops dispatched by Ottoman Empire to crush rebellion in Peloponnnesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>War of Independence (Revolution) officially declared on 25 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821-1829</td>
<td>Revolution in Greece centered at Peloponnnesus 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1854-1856</td>
<td>Crimean War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1841-1897</td>
<td>Revolts against the Ottomans in Crete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1877-1878</td>
<td>Russo-Turkish War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 1912</td>
<td>First Balkan War; Ottoman empire forced from Macedonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Second Balkan War; the Balkan states fight over division of Macedonia. War with Bulgaria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917-1919</td>
<td>World War I: Greece defeats Bulgaria, gains territory in Thrace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921-1923</td>
<td>Greek-Turkish war settled territorial issues and provided for compulsory exchange of populations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Military Records of Genealogical Value

The main source of military records is the Ministry of Defense (Υπουργείον Εθνικής Άμυνας). Although there may be many types of military records available in Greek archives and repositories, only a few have been microfilmed and are 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 in 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:

Draft List, 1883. 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:

Military Pensions 1836-1898. 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 population 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, Armenians in 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 settling in Macedonia in the sixth century. When Greece obtained Macedonian territory from Turkey in 1913, a number of Slavic people came under Greek 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 Greece are located almost entirely 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 Aegean islands. These Albanians have mostly assimilated into the Greek population. Most are entirely Greek-speaking, 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 I. 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 few 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 synagogue records from Greece are not currently available at the Family History Library, some published books are 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.
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 to 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 added suffix meaning "son of" or "little." The ending -opoulos is most common in the Peleponnese area. Thus John the son of Nicholas would be Ioannis Nikolopoulos. The possessive case (-ou) was also often used as a patronymic resulting in names such as Grigoriou from Grigoriou. Other patronymic endings include: -akis (from Crete); -enos, -las, -eas (from the Mani region of south Peloponnese); -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 Mylonopoupos (son of the miller), Kavounis (coal man), Kapetanidis (son of the 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 perhaps 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 dark-haired Paul), Galanis (blue-eyed), Katsaros (curly), Makris (long), and Koutsogiorgos (lame George). Other names reflect personality traits such as: leventis (brave, honorable), Onassis (useful), 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 (of Thessalonika), 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: Kypraros, Kypraiou, Kypriakos, 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: money), Lekes (Turkish: mark, stam), Katsakas (Turkish: fugitive, escapee), Delapatriakis (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.

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

Family ties are very important in Greece and extend beyond the immediate family. Family surnames came to be applied to these extended families or clans. 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 developed 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 Ioannis that the process starts over again.

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 1900s.

Most surnames have different endings when the bearer is male or female. For example, a man has the name Παπανικολάου (Papaioannis). His wife or daughter would be: Παπαοικιά (Papaioannou). Some of the most common male and female endings include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greek</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-ος</td>
<td>-os</td>
<td>-ou</td>
<td>-os</td>
<td>-ou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ας</td>
<td>-as</td>
<td>-α</td>
<td>-as</td>
<td>-α</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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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 Ioanna would be Ioanna 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 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 Θεοχάρης (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 Σωκράτης (Sokratis), he might take the name Παύλος (Paulos) or some other saint’s name. The ordained person is usually called by his surname (or new name) with the prefix Παπα- (Papa-), indicating his title. For example, if his name were Σωκράτης Κανάκης (Sokratis Kanakis) and his new name were Παύλος (Paulos), he would be called Παπαπαύλος (Pappapaulos) or Παπακανάκης (Papakanakis), but never Σωκράτης (Sokratis) nor ΠαπαΣωκράτης (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 -αία (-aia) or -ήα (-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 Καράλης (Karalis), and his wife's given name might be listed as Καράλινα (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, Αικατερίνη (Aikaterini) may have the following possible variations: Κατίτη (Kaiti), Κατίνα (Katina), Κατερίνα (Katerina), Κατίλω (Katilo), Κατινώ (Katinio). Likewise, the Greek equivalent to John, Ιωάννης (Ioannis) has at least the following variations: Γιάννης (Giannis), Γιάγκος (Giagkos), Γιαννακός (Giannakos), and Γιαννέλος (Giannelos).

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


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 Americana 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 former vice-president 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 Ioannatos 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
- Permission to reside in a city without being expelled

Citizenship records include information 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:

Iv'naturalization 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 fomed 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:


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 are 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 are 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 of the Greek Association of Family History and Tradition (SIPEO). 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:


In addition, publications are 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 are 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 (see 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 level. In 1964 education was made free at all levels.

If your ancestor was educated in the universities of Greece, 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 few school records, mainly intermediate 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:


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:


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
  Tel: (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:


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 (*Syllogos 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 came 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 are in:


**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 Yenicce (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:

**COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

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

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Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400  
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

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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 leuakas. 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 Genealogical Research by Iica 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.
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

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."

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

UNDERGRADUATE

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.

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.

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

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.

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.


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


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.


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


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


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.


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.


Useful and succinct bibliographical summary.

GRADUATE STUDENTS AND GENERAL SCHOLARS


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.


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.


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.

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


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.


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


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


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.


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.


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.


Part of a series of volumes in Greek describing the direction, composition, and character of Greek emigration to North America.


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


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