



*DANNY MORTENSEN AND SHERRY SAITES*

# THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF A FAMILY NAMED SAITES



# ***THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF A FAMILY NAMED SAITES***



***DANNY MORTENSEN AND SHERRY SAITES***

# **THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF A FAMILY NAMED SAITES**

## ***The Saites/Saitis/Psetas Family History***

**Authors:** Danny Mortensen and Sherry Saites

**Research and Editing:** Sherry Saites

**Contributors:** George Vasilios Saites, Gregory Kolymparis, Polyxeni 'Pauline' Kolymparis Tasakos, Michael Hahn, Rick Hahn, Kosta Seitis, Vicky Saites, Bessie Demopoulos Christophilakis, Paula Saitis, Maria Eugenia Saitis Triantafilo, and our interpreter in Greece: cousin Vasliki 'Betty' Saites. Special thanks to Loula Kufasimes for her assistance with the history of the families in. Also, a special thanks the Dr. Lukas Konandreas for his contributions on Koupaki.



*Koupaki Looking Northwest*

Note: As a genealogist, I found the Greek government 19<sup>th</sup> century tradition, of documenting only males, a frustrating stumbling point. I'm hoping that we eventually augment this record of our families with records yet to be discovered in Greece. For now, we can only rely on oral and written family histories and what few documents are currently available. ~ Sherry Saites

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Saïtes, Seitis, Saetes. etc.	4
Chapter One – Where Are We From	8
Roumeli	8
The Balkans	9
Palaïokatouno, Roumeli	10
Krokylio, Doridos	11
The Koupaki Connection	13
Chapter Two – Migration	18
The 1800s	18
The Early 1900s	18
The AHEPA	20
Chapter Three - Settling in North America	21
The Earliest Arrivals to North America	21
Then There Were More	21
Pocatello, Idaho and the Railroad	22
The Railroad Strike of 1922	23
Next Stop - Michigan	24
Chapter Four - Branches of the Family Tree	27
Georgios Seite and Evanthis Psetas	27
Leonidas Georgios Saitis and his Descendants	27
Georgios "George" Leonidas Saitis	29
Ioannis "John" Leonidas Saïtes	31
Efthemios Kotrotsis	34
Nicolas "Nick" Leonidas Saïtes	34
Early Oregon Days	36
Michigan	38
Iowa	38
Back to Michigan	39
Dimitrios Leonidas "Jim" Saitis	42
Dimitroula Saitis	42
Evanthis "Mantha" Saitis	42
Theodoris "Theodore" Leonidas Saitis	46
Konstantine Leonidas Saitis	48
Louis Nick Saïtes	49
Lineage of Leonidas Georgios Saitis	59
Ythemios Georgios Saitis and his Descendants	66
Georgios 'George' Efthemios Saïtes	66
Vasilios 'William' Efthemios Saïtes	66

Efthemios "Mike" William Saites	68
Sophia William Saites	68
Helen "Elaine" William Saites	70
Stavros "Steve" William Saites	71
George William Saites	72
Thomas William Saites	72
Lineage of Ythemios Georgios Saitis	73
The Kritsotaki Connection	76
The Psetas Connection	77
Vasilios Psetas and his Descendants	78
The Stoumbos / Gravanis Connection	80
Konstantinos Saitis of Krokylio	81
Saitis Family of South America	82
Chapter Five - Memories and Reunions	83
Personal Memories - Danny Mortensen	83
Saites Family Reunions	85
Visiting the Villages	90

### Appendices and Index

A. Krokylio Voting Records of 1864-65 & 1872	92
B. The Secret Chili Recipe	94
C. Notes, Resources, and References	95
D. Sais (Saites) Pharaohs of Egypt	102
E. Celebrating Pocatello's Greek Heritage	103
F. The Greek War of Independence 1821-1829	110
G. Additional Photographs	112
Authors Request	116
Index	117

## INTRODUCTION

Over the last 120 years the Saites family made an amazing journey. Few of us have a clear picture of who we are and how we got to this point. In this account we make the attempt to relate the history of the Saites family, who we are, where we came from, and explain our connections. Along the way we hope to answer some of the questions you may have.

This compilation is intended to be a living document. It will evolve with time as we discover more information and solve long term mysteries. We would encourage the reader to contribute additions and offer corrections.

The Saites family history is neither simple nor clear, yet we've pieced together much from many sources. Our earliest origins can be traced back to pre-19th century Palaioikatouno, a village south of the current location of Krokyllo, in Dorida (formerly called Roumeli, a Turkish name meaning "New Rome"), Greece.

The earliest records uncovered include the 1864 and 1872 voting registries of Krokyllo / Palaioikatouno (see Appendix A). The Voter Registries list all eligible male voters of the village. The combined listings contain the names of 379 men with 82 surnames. One of the larger families enumerated have the surname ΣΑΪΤΗΣ/SAITIS. The combined registry contains the names of 24 Saitis males. The remaining 81 names on the registry include many of our extended family including: Giannakopoulos, Gravanis, Katsula, Kotrotsis, Konandreas, Nitzos, Pagonis, Psytas/Psetas, Raftis/Raptis, Stathopoulos, and Triantafillou.

### **Saites, Seitis, Saetis, etc.**

Why is the family name of Saites spelled so many different ways? The transliteration of ΣΑΪΤΗΣ into Latin is spelled Saitis and into American English is Saites. In Greek, "saita" means shuttle or dart. Saitis is a metonymic occupational name for an archer, or a nickname for one who is a very fast runner (he flies like a saita). Perhaps in ancient times, we were known for our skill in making bows or arrows?

Family folklore relates that the Turks referred to the Saites clan as "şeytan" a Turkish word meaning "devil" because Rumeliotis were regarded as some of the fiercest fighters in Greece

One possible origin of the surname Saitis is locative, where you lived or were born. If you were from Epirus, "ns" (ΗΣ in Greek) was added to the last name - ΣΑΪΤΗΣ.

Within our family we have Saites, Saitis, Seitis, and Psetas. In some cases, a different spelling between brothers. An example in Koupaki is John Leonidas Saites and half-brother Theodore Saitis. Some spellings can be attributed to anglicizing names from Greek to English upon arrival in the US by the immigrants. *"Immigrants were not forced to change their names at Ellis Island. Inspectors there, who spoke an average of three languages, only checked people's names against those on ship's passenger lists. Names usually were changed because they were incorrectly spelled on the ship's manifest...or were altered in the US when the original name could not be pronounced"* according to Phillip Sutton, reference librarian, Millstein Division, New York Public Library. You can research individual names arriving to the United States at [www.EllisIslandRecords.com](http://www.EllisIslandRecords.com)

Psetas: Because there were so many Saites families (47) in Krokylio with duplicate names, it became a common practice to adopt a nickname for each family. This information comes from the postman in Krokylio. Psetas was a nickname for one of the families. The nickname for the Ythemios Georgios Saites family was "korezi". Other Saites nicknames in Krokylio were Xereoi, Lapeoi (Leonidas' family), Koutvalas, Mpolotas, Melagas, Mantzalos, Kourmousis, Kalafantias, Sarkentis, Kolezos, Paparigas, Rematianos, Kafritsas, etc.

There is little general consensus among historians and genealogists regarding the history and origin of Greek surnames. Use of surnames occur sporadically throughout Greek history and is far too involved to be related here in a great detail. However, the following information from the website, [pontosworld.com](http://pontosworld.com) offers some explanation for Greek surnames

The following is from that website and offers various explanations for Greek surnames. The website is mainly related to Greeks living in the Pontus region of Turkey, but there is a great deal of useful information related to Greek history in general.

Catsakis (2003), a Greek-American genealogist (see Note 1), states that Greek surnames were created like surnames from most cultures, especially in the western world and they fall into the following five main categories:

#### 1. From the father's name (patronymic)

This category is the most common among Greeks. Such names are derived by adding 'son of' to the end of the father's first name. The suffix used varies according to the place of origin. Endings with 'akis' are common from Crete, 'atos' is common from the island of Kefalonia, 'poulos' is common from the Peloponnesus, e.g.

Nikolopoulos. Greeks from Anatolia and eastern Thrace often have endings with 'idis',

'adis' as well as the Turkish 'oglou'. [Many Pontic Greeks from the Black Sea region of Anatolia have surnames ending with idis, e.g. Jasonidis.]

## 2. From personal characteristics

Many surnames reflect some personality or physical characteristic of the original bearer, e.g. Kontos (short) forming Kontogiannis (short John); Xanthos (blonde/fair haired) forming Xanthogiannis (fair haired John). In some cases, these nickname surnames refer to some event in the life of the individual which may be difficult to determine, e.g. Mavros (black) as in Mavrogiannis (black John). Did it refer to his black beard or dark complexion or that he often wore black clothing?

## 3. From occupations or titles

Occupations are a rich source for surnames, e.g. Raftis (tailor), Papoutsis (shoemaker). Surnames beginning with Papa (priest) are very numerous in Greece, like Papadopoulos (son of a priest) which is very common from the Peloponnese. Interestingly, the most common occupational name in many countries, equating to 'smith' is seldom used in Greece since metal work there was traditionally a gypsy trade.

## 4. From foreign terms

Some Greek names are derived from the words of other languages which have had ties to Greece. Turkish terms are the most common. This does not mean that a person with a surname derived from a Turkish word has Turkish ancestry, but simply that a Turkish word was modified into a Greek surname. The most common surname of Turkish origin is Karas (black).

## 5. From places

Titles are also seen as prefixes. 'Hatzí', from the Arabic 'Hajj' (one who has visited Mecca) at the beginning of a Greek surname, e.g. Hatzigiannis, is a title for someone who made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and had been baptised in the river Jordan. The title 'Mastro' indicates a master craftsman, e.g. Mastrodimitros."

## Endings that indicate the place of origin

In Greece, the endings of surnames vary from area to area, often indicating the place of origin. The ending "-opoulos" is most common on surnames in Peloponnese. Thus Thomas, the son of Nicholas, would be Thomas Nikolopoulos. The following list shows the endings and possible place of origin.

<u>Ending</u>	<u>Place of origin</u>
-opoulos	Peloponnese

-akis	Crete
-akos	Mani (South Peloponnese)
-eas	Mani (South Peloponnese)
-ias	Mani (South Peloponnese)
-atos	Kefallinia (island)
-elis	Lesvos (island)
-ikas	Thessaly
-akas	Thessaly
-oudis	Northern Greece
-idis	Asia Minor, Eastern Thrace, Pontos, and other areas of Turkey
-adis	Asia Minor, Eastern Thrace, Pontos, and other areas of Turkey
-oglou	Asia Minor, Eastern Thrace, Pontos, and other areas of Turkey

Danny Mortensen visited the Krokilio village office seeking information on deceased family members and was shown a large hard-bound binder, 2 feet by 3 feet, in which the heads of families and children were hand-written as far back as the 1800s but was not allowed to copy any info. There is a book for Krokilio and one for Koupaki. The Greeks do not understand the interest in genealogy and consider the data to be confidential and not even available to relatives. The office claimed the law requires privacy. He even offered money to no avail.

Since that visit, we have learned the records have been moved to a larger village nearby, Lidoriki, and will attempt to access the books there on our next trip. Lidoriki is the district capital of Doridos.

## Chapter One

### WHERE ARE WE FROM?

#### Roumeli

#### Etymology



From Wikipedia: The term Rûm means "Roman", while Rumelia (Turkish: *Rumeli*) means "Land of the Romans" as in the lands conquered by the Ottoman Turks from the Byzantine Empire, at the time still known as the Roman Empire. The neologism "Byzantine Empire" was coined only in 1557 by a German historian, Hieronymus Wolf, in his work *Corpus Historiæ Byzantinæ*. As such, it was long used in Greek, Turkish, Albanian and the Slavic languages to describe the lands of that empire.

Originally, the Seljuk Turks used the name "Land of the Rûm" (Romans) for defining Anatolia, which was gradually conquered by the armies of the Seljuk Empire from the Byzantine Empire following the Battle of Manzikert in 1071. The Seljuk Sultanate of Rum (1077–1307) was the "Sultanate of Anatolia".

Following the expansion of the Ottoman Empire into Anatolia and the Balkans starting from the second half of the 14th century, and the conquest of Constantinople (Istanbul) in 1453 by Mehmed II, the term Rumeli (Land of the Romans) was applied exclusively to define the Balkan regions of the Ottoman Empire, which remained primarily populated by Christians. Roumeli is the old term for central Greece. The modern term is Doridos.

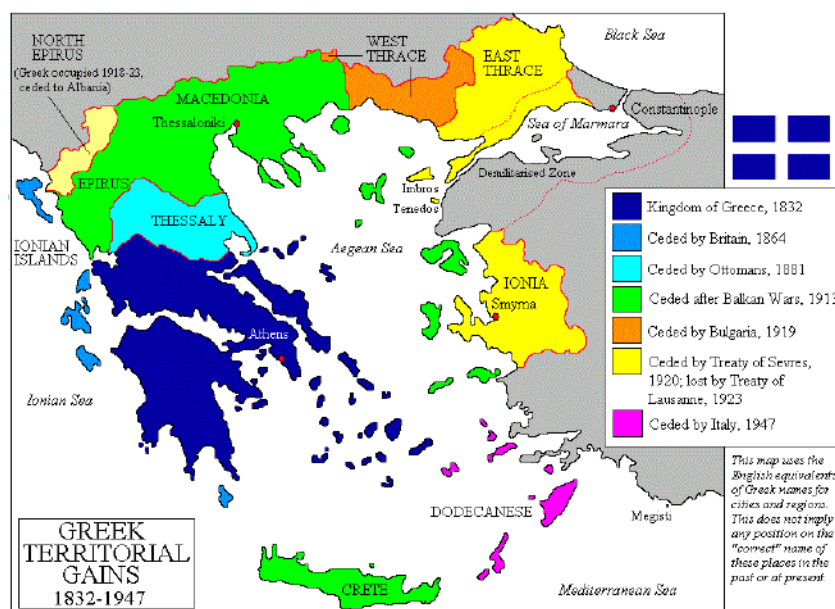
#### Geography

Rumelia included the provinces of Thrace, Macedonia and Moesia, and today's Bulgaria and Turkish Thrace, bounded to the north by the rivers Sava and Danube, west by the Adriatic coast, and south by the Morea. The name Rumelia was ultimately applied to a province composed of central Albania and north-western Macedonia, with Bitola for its chief town.

After the Greek War of Independence (1821-1829), and administrative changes between 1870 and 1875, Rumelia ceased to correspond to any political division. Eastern Rumelia was constituted as an autonomous province of the Ottoman Empire by the Treaty of Berlin, 1878, but on September 6, 1885, after a bloodless revolution, it was united with Bulgaria. The Kosovo Vilayet was created in 1877.

Today, in Turkey, the word Trakya (Thrace) has mostly replaced Rumeli (Rumelia) when referring to the part of Turkey which is in Europe (provinces of Edirne, Kırklareli, Tekirdağ, the northern part of Çanakkale Province and the western part of Istanbul Province), though Rumelia remains in use in historical contexts and the word is used in the context of the culture of current Turkish populations of the Balkans and descendants of Turkish immigrants from the Balkans.

This region in Turkey is also referred to as Eastern Thrace or Turkish Thrace. In Greece, the term Ρούμელი (*Rumeli*) has been used since Ottoman times to refer to Central Greece, especially when juxtaposed with the Peloponnese or Morea. The word *Rumeli* is also used in some cases (mostly by Istanbul denizens) to refer exclusively to the part of Istanbul Province that is situated west of the Bosphorus.



## The Balkans

The following is an excerpt from The Balkans by Mark Mazower:

"At the end of the twentieth century, people spoke as if the Balkans had existed forever. Two hundred years earlier, they had not yet come into being. It was not the Balkans but "Rumeli" that the Ottomans ruled, the formerly "Roman" lands that they had conquered from Byzantium. The Sultan's educated Christian Orthodox subjects

referred to themselves as "Romans" (Romaloi), or more simply as "Christians". To Westerners familiar with classical regional terms such as Macedonia, Epiros, Dacia and Moesia, the term "Balkan" conveyed little".

"My expectations were raised", wrote one traveller in 1854, "by hearing that we were about to cross a *Balkan*; but I discovered ere long that this high-sounding title denotes only a ridge which divides the waters, or a mountain pass, without its being a necessary consequence that it offer grand or romantic scenery".

### **Palaiokatouno, Roumeli**

To date the earliest records we have located are the 1865 Electoral registers for the Province of Dorida - members of the Saites family were living in Palaiokatouno, a small village in the mountains of central Greece. The name Palaiokatouno was of Turkish origin. We have been unable to find anything that would help us know when or by whom it was founded.

No one knows when the village was founded, nor for how long the original village was occupied. We know from military census records that the Saitis/Saites/Psetas families were one of the largest families in the village.

Sometime during the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, two important incidents occurred. The first and most impactful incident was the relocation of the village. There are no records to indicate why, but whatever the reason, the villagers decided to move the entire village. The current location is further up the mountainside and north of the original location. No structures from the original village remain, making it impossible to pinpoint the precise location. We have only the stories of our ancestors. The second incident, while less impactful, was none-the-less important. The village of Palaiokatouno having moved farther up the mountain, was changed to the present name of Krokyllo in 1915.

## **Krokylio, Doridos**

The current larger village of Krokylio is in the municipality of Dorida in the northwestern part of the Phocis regional unit of Central Greece and west of the new Mornos dam built in 1979. The mountain village of Krokylio lies at an elevation of 2,720 feet and is located on the mainland about an hour and a half north of the seaside city of Nafpaktos. The area is mountainous, forested by oaks and pines.



The Nafpaktos library has several books regarding the villages of Doris. George Vasilios Saites spent time researching Krokylio and Koupaki for us. During his research he found a reference to someone by the name of "Saitis Nikolaos" from Krokylio. It was noted that "Saitis Nikolaos" fought against the Turks in the War of Independence (1821-1828).

Δημήτριος Αθανασίου ΣΑΪΤΗΣ or Dimitrios, son of Athanasiou Saitis, was born approximately 1785 and is the eldest Saitis listed in the 1864 Voter Registry of Krokylio. We know nothing about him or how we may be related other than the commonality of our last name. Perhaps over the years we may learn more from church and village records, but for now we're happy in finding this interesting tidbit of history.

Regarding the Voter Registry of 24 adult males of the Saites family, it's safe to assume many were married with families of their own. If there was a census of our village at any time over the years, we have been unable to locate it. Folklore relates that at some point there were approximately 47 Saitis families in Krokylio. With so many having similar names, each family was known by a nickname. Our intention is to continue searching for records of the military census of eligible males, which was conducted three times a year. The census, of males only, was taken in order to insure compliance of the national law requiring that all males serve two years in the military.

The Greek practice of naming the first son after the grandfather, lead to widespread name duplication. Obviously with numerous first sons in large families there are a number of cousins with the same first names. This only intensifies with each generation born. Sorting out sketchy records such as the electoral list of the municipality and the few birth records at the village office is a major issue. Church records for marriages, baptisms and deaths likely contain the most useful information. Cousin Danny Mortensen has learned that the church records for our

villages are in Amfissa at the office of the Bishop (Note 2). There is hope his visit to the church offices in the future will be fruitful. Of course, researching Greek records will require the assistance of an interpreter and the kind patience of the person charged with the safe keeping of the records.

The Saites families lived on the south side of the Saitoura stream which flows through Krokylio. We have been told, Saitoura means "flying snake which glides from trees." It's near the Saitoura stream that you will find the remains of one of the oldest houses in the village with its slate roof. This is believed to have been a Saites house. Today, newer houses have tile roofs.

The remains of the fallen house are located just below the road where the water flows from the Megali Vrisi fountains. Built in 1899, the Megali Vrisi figure heads, from which the water flows, are said to be a bishop and four priests. A bit of humorous folklore refers to the bishop's water as holy water!



Today, Krokylio has a modern, but spartan hotel and restaurant with great food prepared daily. Be sure to visit the small, but very nice museum located in the old school house. See the village president, who has the key, to gain entry. The school closed in 1957. There is also a smaller one-room museum in Koupaki next to the church.



*The school house in Krokylio with now a small museum.*



*The church of St. George  
in the Krokylio village square*



*Statue of Yannis Makriyannis (1797–  
1864), born Ioannis Triantaphyllou, hero  
of the War of Independence, in Krokylio*

The busiest month in the village is August, when most folks abandon Athens for the villages because of the oppressive heat. If you want to see most of your relatives in a short time, visit the village during August or Easter week!

### **The Koupaki Connection**

Koupaki lies approximately 5 1/2 km southwest of Krokylio on the east-facing side of colline Pyrgos. It snows every winter and enjoys a very attractive climate year-round.



Koupaki was connected to the regional road network in 1952 (6.2 miles of dirt road) and was paved in the 1990s. Electricity reached the village in the 1960s along with a single phone line at the general store in the old plaza. The school closed in 1957 and the few remaining students attended school in the neighboring village of Zorianos.

Dr. Lukas Konandreas was the original author of the Wikipedia article about the village of Koupaki. The article was subsequently added to and/or edited by others. We are grateful to Dr. Konandreas, who kindly offered his assistance and contributed his personal account, which follows.

“Prior to this written document by Pouqueville and based on historical accounts from the greater area, Koupaki was inhabited before 2000 B.C. by the Pelasgians, who were then invaded by the Dorians whose presence for a long time gave the name Dorida to the greater region. The Aetolians followed from the 13th century B.C. onwards and the area was later invaded by Achaeans, Macedonians, Galatians, Romans and Goths culminating with the destruction of the ancient city of Doris. Later, it was the turn of the Slavs, the Bulgarians, the Catalans, Normans and finally the Ottoman Turks, with the fall of Constantinople in 1453 A.D.

“Until about 200 A.D. religious beliefs in the greater area were dominated by idol worshiping and polytheism. The Oracle of Delphi exerted considerable influence, which was usually prophetic or spiritual in nature. (The oracle is only about 45 miles east from the village and a two hour drive). It is of no surprise that Christianity could not easily match the infallible authority of the oracle and it is said that it took over 100 years for the region and the village to accept the new dogma.

“For nearly 400 years under Ottoman occupation, poor and mountainous villages like Koupaki were not favorite places for the Turks. However, a location near Koupaki which is known as *Maraveli* is of importance to the Saïtes family and was at some period during the Ottoman occupation, the "property" of a Turk with the likely name *Omar Avel or Abel* (from whom the area apparently took its name). It is said that the Maraveli (the area is about 5 square kilometers) was used as pastureland for livestock to supply the needs of the Turk who resided in one of the larger towns of the Mornos valley to the south, as the Turks preferred wealthier and more fertile areas as well as the security and social structure offered by larger towns. In fact, this relative isolation and ethnic purity of mountainous villages like Koupaki brought with it pride and a sense of purity and superiority relative to those of the lowlands. Although the latter had no alternative but to cohabit with the Turks, this was considered as capitulation and as shameful compromise by the mountain people.

“The present location of Koupaki formed the nucleus for smaller settlements around it. Slowly the inhabitants of these peripheral settlements moved to the main central village location.

“The original families of Koupaki are the Giannomitros, Kolimparis, Konandreas, Koufasimes, Nasiopoulos and Tsatouhas. All these names are long and most of them are composite names formed by joining two known first names or a name and a special characteristic or occupation by the individual.

“The Greek War of Independence in 1821 against the Ottoman Turks found Koupaki and the rugged mountainous villages around in the forefront of the revolution.

“On October 1828, Dorida, the county where Koupaki is located, was finally liberated and the province of Sterea Hellas (literally the 'Solid Greece') and with the Peloponnese in the south, comprised the new Greek Nation. In 1837, less than 10 years after liberation, Koupaki was recognized as an independent community by the Greek government and became part of the municipality of Krokylion.

“Even prior to 1800 and following several small scale revolutions against the Turks (including the Orlov revolt) families from further away areas, (mostly from the province of Epirus) started to arrive.

“This migration increased when the town of Missolonghi fell to the Turks. Missolonghi is located southwest and only about 35 miles from the village and efforts and heroism to repel the attacking Turks attracted several world personalities including the acclaimed British poet Lord Byron, who fought and died in Messolonghi in 1826.

“The newer arrivals, all of whom have had two syllable last names (much different than the long names of the originals) were given new nicknames by the original locals and land around the perimeter of the village. The diameter of the village was increased from about 100 meters to about 500 meters as the two syllable named arrivals took residence in a circle. And today the houses of those two syllable families Goumas, Nitsos, Zoupas, Soulias, Tsipras, Koinis, Zohos, and Zakkas occupy the periphery of the village.

“By 1845 the construction of the Church of St. George in Krokilio had started. The church took nearly 12 years to complete and it was exclusively with the local gray stone and oak beams. The labor was voluntary and was offered by the village men and women. The engravings seen today on cornerstones of the church are still immensely inspiring. They reflect deep spirituality and a tribute to the institution that preserved Orthodoxy and the Greek language and culture for almost 400 years.”

Leonidas Georgios Saitis (1861-1935) was the first Saites moving from Krokylion to Koupaki, making his home there after marrying his first wife, Ekaterini Stathopoulos. Around the same time, Georgios Saitis also relocated to Koupaki. We've not yet found a direct relationship between Leonidas and Georgios.

Dr. Konandreas adds: “Of interest to our family is the area of Maraveli, where the Konandreas/Saitis family owned 500 acres of land. Leonidas Georgios Saitis married his second wife Zoitsa Konandreas and received some parcels there as part of the dowry.



*Panos Konandreas on left,  
Kosta Seitis in center. 2018*

Leonidas lived in Maraveli until 1880 and then moved up to the village so the kids could attend school."

Left is the Holy Trinity (Agia Trias) chapel in Maraveli, the spiritual center for the 5-6 families who lived there part-time while tending to the crops. The age of the original Holy Trinity chapel is unknown and existed before St George was built in the main village of Koupaki.

Two of the land owners of Maraveli, Theodore Saitis and Athanasios Konandreas, (cousins, were both born in Maraveli in 1906.

They had no memory of the date this chapel was built. They both gave the same answer when asked: "Agia Trias? When was built? Only God knows". They also stated, that their grandfathers (born perhaps around 1840), who they asked years earlier, did not know or remember.

The Chapel burned to the ground in 1956 and has since been rebuilt. The descendants of the Konandreas family maintain the church (our own Danny Mortensen contributed funds in 2018). Once a year, a celebration is held on the Holy Trinity Day at the chapel. The entire village attends. Kostas Zohos, an attorney and author, agreed about the age and the historical importance of the chapel. He wrote that the chapel had no nails between the wood pieces, which were notched and interlocked. The original church in the village had nails so it was built after the chapel. We know that the wood church of St. George in Koupaki existed in 1800. As for church records, villagers do not know where the records are located. At one time, they were in the loft of the present-day church. The rumor is that the priest in the early 19th century burned them in the winter to keep warm! They may be in Amfissa at the office of the Bishop where more recent records are maintained. The priest from the neighboring village of Zorianos services the village churches of Krokilio and Koupaki.

Two icons donated by John Leonidas Saites are on display. Two additional icons donated by Nicolas Leonidas Saites have been relocated to the Koupaki village church of St. George. Both Koupaki and Krokyllo churches have the same patron saint.

Kostas Zohos has written three books about his village Koupaki. 1. "Genealogy of Koupaki" in 1985. 2. "My mind visits the past" in 1987. 3. "My Village" in 1989. His first two books have been loosely translated into English with funds from Danny Mortensen.

Also, Prof. Paraskevas Bakarezos wrote a book (221 pages) entitled, "Krokilio Doridos" which is a beautiful photographic history of Krokilio. You might be able to order a copy through a bookstore in Athens.

Dr. Lukas Konandreas wrote a book entitled, "Better Dead Than Divorced" about a murder in the village of Koupaki which captured the attention of the entire country in the 1950s.

### **Addendum:**

It is likely that the Saites families moved to Krokylio from the province of Epirus. This is because they do own a two-syllable name ("Saites") but also because DNA tests done during the last 10 years find relations between people from all the villages of the county of Dorida and these relations are by far more frequent when a two syllable name was part of the family tree.

Lukas Konandreas who did his DNA in 2017 has found that within his nearly 200 relatives posted by Ancestry, three from those he was able to contact came from the county of Dorida and one from the neighboring county of Nafpaktia. The ancestors of these relationships had two syllable names and came from the Epirus province. Others who have done DNA and pursued the results by contacting relations speak about a similar frequency.

Towards the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, a large number of young men from Koupaki headed for the New World. Many of them worked in building the railway network in America, others served in the restaurant business, a tradition that continues to this day. They left with the intention to return but many never did and many more from their extended family and friends followed their path. This was the beginning of the gradual decay of the village which accelerated further during the 1920s and 1940s with new destinations such as Canada, Australia and New Zealand."

The population of Koupaki over the years:

<u>1879</u>	<u>1896</u>	<u>1907</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1928</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>2001</u>
335	390	332	358	355	329	187	105	51	93	86

*Note:* There were several Saitis families in Koupaki, originally from Krokylio. During World War II, Elaine Saites Rodgers (one of the four Amerikanaki kids) visited the Leonidas Georgios Saitis family in Koupaki to get food for her family. She and her siblings were living with their grandparents in Krokylio. It was her grandfather, Ythemios Georgios Saitis in Krokylio, who sent Elaine to the next village of Koupaki barefoot. It is believed Ythemios and Leonidas were either brothers or first cousins. Both had a father by the name of Georgios Seiti and they were born in Krokylio six years apart. At this point we will reflect the relationship as brothers unless further documentation reflecting they were cousins is uncovered.

## **Chapter Two**

### **MIGRATION**

#### **Asia Minor to Greece to America**

The Saïtes families are believed to have migrated from Asia Minor to Epirus centuries ago. Epirus is in the northwest corner of Greece adjoining Albania and due east of the island of Corfu. It's believed that due to an unsuccessful 25-year rebellion with the Turks, sometime after 1453, many Greeks in Epirus fled to Missolonghi located some 25 miles west of Krokilio and Koupaki.

#### **The 1800s**

During the War of Independence, Missolonghi was under siege twice by the Turks and eventually fell in 1826. Most inhabitants died. Greek history was made when the women danced off the cliffs with their children to avoid capture and slavery. Some of the extended Saïtes family members escaped to Palaïokatouno, later renamed Krokylío.

The entire village of Palaïokatouno moved at some point higher up the mountain. We have heard that the reason for the move was to avoid frequent contact with the Turks. The new location was not as accessible and they were left relatively alone. The War of Independence, 1821-1828, found the mountain villages at the forefront of the revolution. March 25 is the official day of Independence celebrated by Greeks worldwide.

#### **The Early 1900s**

While United States immigration records reflect Greeks arriving as early as the 1820s, our family is not known to have emigrated from Greece any earlier than the 1890s and most not until the early 1900s. Those leaving the villages between the 1890s and 1920s left for the United States in search of work. A few may have been motivated by their desire to avoid mandatory conscription into the Greek army. Research also indicates that over the years younger men left their home village for the purpose of marriage. There were others who left in search of new land. Rumors of a rich land and jobs in the United States enticed many to migrate.

Admittance to the United States came with restrictions; one had to be in good health, both mentally and physically, not be a polygamist or an anarchist, and had to have means of support while in the country - either their own money, support of relatives, or an awaiting job.

The burgeoning railroad was spreading westward and jobs were plentiful. In search of new employees, railroad and coal-mining companies advertised in European countries. Many in our family who arrived in America worked for the railroads. They may have seen advertisements, been contacted by padrones (labor recruiters), or learned of jobs from family and friends. For those not looking to perform the heavy and arduous labor required of railroad workers, there were other jobs to be found. There were Greeks working in textile mills, hotels, some were bootblacks, and others worked in the food industry. In our family, those not working on the railroad, found work as cooks and waiters, jobs that would prepare them as future restaurateurs.

Of the many fathers, sons, cousins, and friends venturing to America, many would return to Greece. A few found their new life in America prosperous and enticing, returning home only for visits or retirement and still others were never to return. A few moved from Greece to settle in Canada, South America, Australia and South Africa.

*Photo of OS&L engine #197 built in 1905 on display at the Oregon Rail Historical Foundation Museum in Portland, Oregon.*



Those remaining in America fell into two categories. The first group remained loyal to Greek customs, gathering in Greek communities, finding work in a variety of local occupations, and often with the Orthodox Church as one of their main sources of social life. Wives and arranged brides arrived from Greece to settle and start the first-generation Greek-American families. Others preferred to fully assimilate as Americans, marrying outside of the Greek community, and raising their families with little concern for Greek traditions. Finding wives whose families came from Ukraine, Germany, and old American families aided in their assimilation. Regardless of alliances, as immigrants from all over Europe have done in the past, we integrated into the melting pot of America.

The railroad went through several name changes before being absorbed by the Union Pacific Railroad in 1910. It originally was the Oregon Steam Navigation Company founded in 1862. It was sold to the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company (OR&N in 1880). We find the OR&N and the Oregon Short Line Railway (a Union Pacific subsidiary) jointly share a spike ceremony at Huntington, OR in 1884. In 1887, the Union Pacific's Oregon Short Line and the Northern Pacific share a joint lease of the OR&N.

In 1890, Portland becomes the 61st largest city in the US with 46,385 people. In 1893, both the Union Pacific and Northern Pacific go bankrupt but continue to operate. In 1896, the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company is founded. In 1900, Union Pacific gains control of the OR&N. In 1910, the OR&N is renamed the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Company. In 1887, the Southern Pacific Railroad begins service to Portland from California.

Source: Pacific Railroad Preservation Assn.

### **The AHEPA**

As with many immigrants of various nationalities, discrimination and persecution were prevalent in the early years. The Greeks formed the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) in Atlanta, GA in 1922 to fight for civil rights and oppose discrimination, bigotry, and hatred promoted by the Ku Klux Klan.

An example of the violence against minorities were frequent strikes culminating with the national coal mine strike of 1922. Coal miners in Utah joined the strike. The Utah miners were mainly minorities from Greece, Italy, China, Finland, Japan, Mexico, and Yugoslavia (modern day Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina). They were lured by false promises of easy money and were brought in frequently as strike-breakers. They did not like living in company towns and trading at company stores (high prices). Working conditions were dangerous causing frequent injury and death. Most of all, they wanted a union to protect their rights.

The strikers were driven out of town and set up tent cities outside of company land. The mine owners mounted machine guns and searchlights on the mountainsides above the camps to keep an eye on the strikers. Violence followed.

For nearly 100 years, the AHEPA has promoted Hellenic ideals, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family, and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism. Greek-American children are the most educated group of all the nationalities that have immigrated to the US.

## Chapter Three

### SETTLING IN NORTH AMERICA

In the late 1800s, Greece was reeling from 400 years of Ottoman occupation. Work was scarce. Between 1900 and 1910, 20% of the male population left Greece to escape poverty and two years of compulsory military service, required of all 19-year-old males.

#### The Earliest arrivals to North America

According to United States immigration records discovered so far, the first of our family to arrive on American soil was 30-year-old **Alessandre Saitis**. We know little about Alessandre, other than he was married and from Palaioakatouno. He arrived in New York City on 17 April 1905, having set sail aboard the S.S. La Gascogne from Le Havre on April 8, 1905. Sadly, he was admitted to the hospital on arrival and died ten days later.

**Ythemios Georgios Saitis**, age 36, was the second Saites to arrive in the United States. He landed in New York City in 1906. Immigration records relate that he was destined for Chicago, Illinois. His journey was a long one, traveling first from Krokyllo to Le Havre, on the northern coast of France. Upon arriving in Le Havre, he purchased passage on the S.S. La Provence. After seven days at sea, Ythemios arrived in New York City on September 28th. His entry to the United States was recorded on September 29th. With \$20 in his pocket, he headed to his recorded destination - 324 South Halsted Street in Chicago Illinois, the address of a friend, Mr. S. Bouroula.



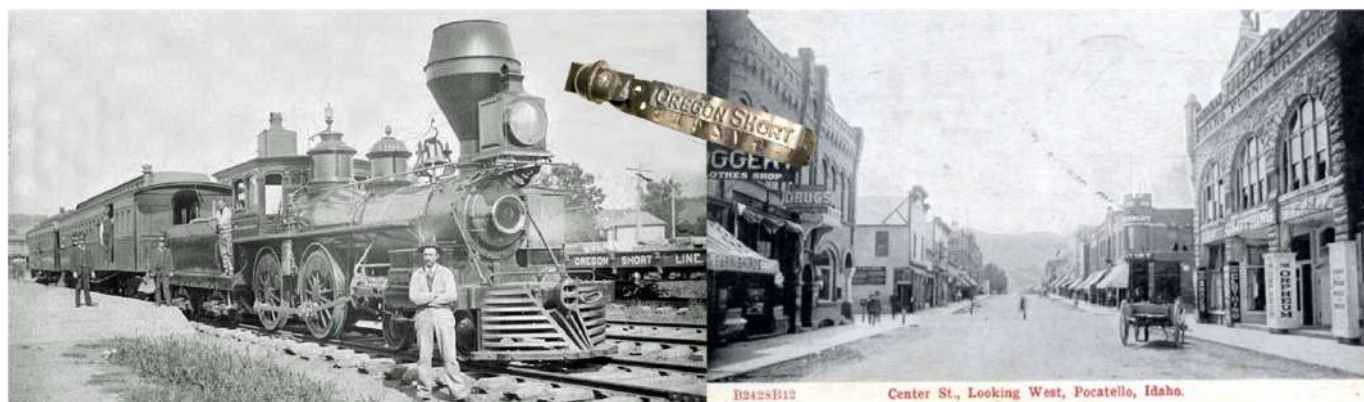
*Ythemios Georgios Saitis*

#### Then There Were More

One of the earlier and larger groups from the villages sailed from Cherbourg, France on April 6, 1907 aboard the S.S. St. Louis. The passenger list from our villages contained the names of nine men and two boys from Koupaki (surnames – Giannomitros, Goumas, Tsipras, Nasiopoulos, Taratsas, Paloukis and Tsatouchas); eight men from Palaioakatouno (surnames – Machas, Papaioannou, Sideris, Triantafillou, Mpezaitis, and one John Saitis); and five men from villages in Dorida (surname – Calmantis, Mainassakis, Poloitris, Catsarelis, Tsaletakis). In addition, there were two men from St. George, Amfissa, Dimitrios Goutrouklis and Loukas Saitis.

## Pocatello, Idaho and the Railroad

Pocatello, Idaho, an early destination, was a popular destination for men looking for work. The men of the Saite families were among the early arrivals.



*Oregon Short Line train and employees early 1900's*

*Center Street, Pocatello, Idaho 1910*

A very large number of Greeks worked on the railroad, laying track and living in tent cities along the rails. Those who didn't work for the railroad were bakers, confectioners, restaurant managers, cleaners, and a few did well enough to buy their own restaurants or boarding houses. At one time, the largest Greek community outside of Greece was in Pocatello with most living in the Triangle District. Library records reflect that there were 1,500 - 3,000 Greeks living there by 1920.

More than 100 Greeks arrived in the US in 1882, and by 1891, the rate had increased to 1,000 a year. The 1910 U.S. Federal Census for Pocatello listed 1860 Greeks, working on the Oregon Short Line Railroad. The official name of the railroad was the Oregon Washington Railroad and Navigation Company (OWR and N Co) which was fully acquired by Union Pacific in 1910. Greek men working on the railroad made up nearly 40% of the workforce in Idaho. Looking at the Pocatello pay roster for Sep 1918, we find the following Section 111 names from Koupaki: George Saite, Foreman, and laborers Sam Nitsos, Bill Saite, and John L. Saite. Company records reflect that John L. Saite worked for the railroad for 10 years. The California Railroad Museum in Sacramento, California now houses the archives of the Oregon Short Line Railroad including payroll and employment lists. The Union Pacific Museum in Council Bluffs, Iowa has an extensive photo collection which may be of interest.

There were large Greek populations in all the railroad towns in the West including a large contingent in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Pocatello was founded in 1915 and the Saite families were charter members. Church records list founding

members including George, Loukas, Nick, and Nonta Saites, all of whom are related to Spyros Saites of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The church celebrated its 100th anniversary in May 2015 and the Saites family was invited by Father Constantine Zozos. There were 17 participants from around the country at the first annual Saites Family Reunion.

## The Railroad Strike of 1922

The railroad strike of 1922 involving 400,000 workers nationwide, otherwise known as the Railway Shopmen's Strike, was intense, violent and driven by proposed wage reductions of seven cents an hour by the Railroad Labor Board. Strikers and their family members were murdered by railway guards and hired thugs.

By 1922, several of our family members had already moved on prior to the strike, some to Michigan, having accumulated enough money to change occupations and start new businesses. They headed for Bay City, Flint, and Saginaw, Michigan – the Tri-Cities. Still others left Idaho headed for Oregon and Iowa. For those who remained working for the railroad, the strike of 1922 was the impetus for them to move on and join family settled in other parts of the country.

Pay Roll

For Services rendered in Maintenance of Way  
by Foremen, at Portland, Oregon, on or about the 1st day of September, 1922, for the period of 11-20-18, inclusive, during the month of September, 1922.

Section III

Name	Rate	Days	Hours	Amount	Remarks
George Saites Foreman	3.88	28	1	107.05	107.05
John Salomon 3 J. Walker	3.00	33	10	99.00	99.00
Sam Nitsos 4 Laborer	3.45	27	21	92.55	92.55
Bill Saites 5 "	3.45	27	21	92.55	92.55
Nick Paton 6 "	3.45	27	21	92.55	92.55
Great Phardone 7 "	3.45	27	21	92.55	92.55
John L. Saites 8 "	3.45	27	21	92.55	92.55
Section III					
Frank S. Harris Foreman	3.88	28	1	107.05	107.05
Frank Gedyak Laborer	3.45	27	21	92.55	92.55
Robert Reder 2 "	3.45	27	21	92.55	92.55
Terry Oatman 3 "	3.45	27	21	92.55	92.55
Ernie Oatman 4 "	3.45	27	21	92.55	92.55
Terry Gendrich 5 "	3.45	27	21	92.55	92.55
Rex Renschelmann 6 "	3.45	27	21	92.55	92.55
H.M. Wames 7 "	3.45	27	21	92.55	92.55
G. L. Thurman 13 "	3.45	27	21	92.55	92.55
G. P. Rantala 14 "	3.45	27	21	92.55	92.55
Henry Rammann 15 "	3.45	27	21	92.55	92.55

Section III

Frank S. Harris Foreman

Frank Gedyak Laborer

Robert Reder 2 "

Terry Oatman 3 "

Ernie Oatman 4 "

Terry Gendrich 5 "

Rex Renschelmann 6 "

H.M. Wames 7 "

G. L. Thurman 13 "

G. P. Rantala 14 "

Henry Rammann 15 "

Northern Pacific Track Maintenance Roster 1918

Underlined: George Saites - Foreman; Sam Nitsos, Bill Saites, John L. Saites

Northern Pacific Pay Roll: George worked 28 days and 1 hour at \$3.88/hour while laborers working a 10-hour day received 34.5 cents/hour.

Oregon Short Line Depot, Pocatello Idaho Circa 1910

Oregon Short Line Employee Pass 1913



## Next Stop - Michigan

### Listings in the Saginaw City Directory in 1921:

Gust Saite operating a restaurant at 108 N Jefferson and residing at the same address.

John L. Saite operating a restaurant at 135 S Washington and residing at 231 N Washington Av.

Peter Saite residing at 227 N Jefferson.

### Listings in the Saginaw City Directory in 1922:

George Saite operating a restaurant at 538 Potter and residing at 536 Carlisle.

George Saite waiter at Gust Saite Restaurant residing 227 N Jefferson.

Gust Saite operating a restaurant at 108 N Jefferson and residing at same.

James Saite residing at 536 Carlisle.

John L. Saite operating a restaurant at 135 S Washington and residing at the same address.

Gust Saite and John Saite, like many business owner operators at the time, lived in rooms adjacent to or above the business. You may also notice that two or three relatives would room together. This certainly helped to save money to send home.

### Listings in the Saginaw City Directory in 1923: (Names in parentheses are names of employers)

George Saite, waiter. (Gus Saite) residing 227 N. Jefferson Av.

Gus Saite operating a restaurant at 108 N. Jefferson Avenue & residing same.

John L. Saite (Saite & Stavros) residing at 133<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> S Washington Av.

William Saite clerk (Saite & Stavros) residing at 133<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> S Washington Av.

Saite & Stavros (John L Saite & James Stavros aka Stavropoulos) restaurant at 135 S. Washington Av.



*The picture to the right is a local shop in Saginaw.  
Taken in the early 1920's John L. Saites is seen standing on the left.*

Listings in the Saginaw City Directory in 1924:

George Saites waiter at Harry Saites Restaurant residing 300 N Warren Av.

Gust Saites operating a restaurant at 108 N Jefferson and residing at same.

Harry Saites operating a restaurant at 407 Genesee Avenue residing at 300 N Warren Av.

John L. Saites (Anna)\* operating Stavros & Saites restaurant and residing at 133<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> S Washington Av.

Stavros & Saites Restaurant (John L Saites & James Stavros) 135 S Washington Av.

\*Note: By 1924 John L. Saites had married and was residing with his Ukrainian wife Anna.

***Danny Mortensen Remembers:*** "In the early 1950s, I remember visiting the Stavropoulos family from Benton Harbor, Ann Arbor, and Detroit. Grandpa John would close Danny's Grill in Flint, MI on Sundays and take me along to visit relatives in Lansing, Alma, Saginaw, Detroit, etc. Every Sunday was a visit to a different location.

In 1965, on my first visit to Greece at age 19, Grandpa John asked me to visit his cousin, Tom State (Stathopoulos). He was retired and living in an apartment near the Truman statue across the street from the American Embassy. Grandpa John's mother was Ekaterini Stathopoulos. Tom was so excited to see me again and shared stories of his time in Michigan with grandpa!

**Sherry Saites Remembers:** When we were living in California, during the late 1950's and early 1960s, I recall my father Louis went to visit his godfather James Stavros on several occasions. Tom and Nick Stavropoulos were brothers and cousins of the children of Leonidas Georgios Saitis.

**The Stathopoulos connection:**

According to John Leonidas Saites, brothers, Tom and Nick, were his first cousins. They had restaurants in Benton Harbor and Detroit. After arriving in the US, they shortened their surname to "State".



*Tom Stathopoulos (State) & family circa 1954*



*Tom Stathopoulos aka Tom State*

## Chapter Four

### BRANCHES OF THE FAMILY TREE

There are many branches of the Saites family tree. We have only started tracing the many relatives in an attempt to connect them to a common root. So far, we have documented just a small portion of three of the larger and oldest families in America - the descendants of Ythemios Georgios Saitis, Leonidas Georgios Saitis, and Vasilios Konstantinos Psetas. Some discoveries have been made through genealogical research (23andMe.com, and Ancestry.com), some through family stories, and some confirmed or added via DNA testing.

#### Georgios Seiti (Saitis) and Evanthia Psetas

- **Georgios Seiti** of Krokylio (Abt. 1834 - Unk) and his wife **Evanthia 'Mantha' Psetas** of Koupaki lived in Krokylio and had at least four children, sons Ythemios Georgios and Leonidas Georgios and two daughters. The record we have of Georgios is Voter Registry for adult males living in Palaioakatouno in 1864. It notes his age as 30 and his father's name, Nicolas. His name is also found on the 1865, 1871 and 1872 registries.

According to Leonidas' grandchildren, Pauline Kolymparis Tasakos, and Gregory Kolymparis, Georgios and Evanthia had two daughters. Little is known about either. The **first** married a man named Pagonis, her name is lost to history. **Maria**, the second sister may have been known as Mary. This information was discovered when Danny, Pauline, and Gregory were together and talking about the family history. Pauline remembered vaguely one bit of trivia which triggered a memory from Gregory. It is important when asking questions that it is done with several people in attendance!

#### Leonidas Georgios Saitis and his Descendants



*Leonidas Georgios Saitis circa 1913*

- **Leonidas Georgios Saitis** (9 Oct 1861 – 1935) was born in Krokylio. His age declared on a ship's manifest indicates he was born about 1861. Upon his marriage to his first wife, **Ekaterini Stathopoulos** (Unk - 1897), he moved from Krokylio to Koupaki, the village of the Stathopoulos family. Leonidas and (Arkateri) Ekaterini had two children who died at an early age, and two sons, Georgios "George" Leonidas and Ioannis "John" Leonidas. Sometime after the birth of their youngest son John, Ekaterini died of unknown causes.

Left a widower with two young sons, Leonidas married a second time. Like Ekaterini, his second wife Zoitsa "Zoi" Konandreas (1867-1963) was born in Koupaki. She was eldest of the five Konandreas daughters: 1. Zoitsa; 2. **Tasoula** (married a **Ligeros** from Limnista); 3. **Vasiliki** (married **Vasilios Mahas** from Krokilio); 4. **Maria**; and 5. **Dimitroula**.

Zoitsa was widowed when her first husband **Efthemios Kotrotsis**, died early in their marriage. It is said Kotrotsis was crossing a raging river by horse when he drowned a week after the wedding. At the time of his death Zoitsa was pregnant with their son **Efthemios "Themios" Kotrotsis** (About 1897 - 1967). Leonidas and Zoitsa added six more children to the family, four sons and two daughters: Nicolas, Dimitros, Dimitroula, Evanthia "Mantha", Theodoros and Constantine.



*Leonidas Georgios Saitis  
circa 1923*

Leonidas and Zoitsa (Zoi) would live out their remaining lives and raise their growing family in a small stone house in Koupaki. The house may have been part of a dowry from the Konandreas family. Conflicting reports say Leonidas actually built it. We have heard that the home of Leonidas and Zoitsa was the nicest in Koupaki with a beautiful view of the mountains. It stands to this day and is kept in good repair by their grandson, Kosta Seitis.



*Zoitsa "Zoi" Konandreas  
circa 1940*



*The Koupaki home of Leonidas  
restored by grandson Kosta Seitis*

Leonidas left for America when his youngest child Konstantine was but a year-old. Sailing from Patras aboard the Themistocles, he arrived in New York City on August 23, 1914. He would meet his two eldest sons, John and George, and like them, he would find work on the railroad. It was not at all uncommon for many to work for a period of time, return to Greece and then one again returned to the United States. We have found only one arrival for Leonidas so it seems he made just one trip. If he did only make one trip, he stayed until at least 1922. We know that he attended the wedding of his son Nicolas in Saginaw, Michigan. Sometime after the wedding, Leonidas returned to Koupaki where he lived until the end of his life (1935). He is buried in the Koupaki Cemetery family grave.

Stories passed down relate that Leonidas led a prosperous life and had the reputation of a generous man who never turned away those in need. Leonidas financed and built the original Koupaki water system and purchased two ships of grain for the people of Koupaki. Below the village is a large 500 hectares (approximately 1200 acres) parcel of land called Maraveli (a Turkish name). Maraveli was farmed by the Konandreas and Saitis families and others.

- **Georgios 'George' Leonidas Saitis** (1884 – 1952) the firstborn son of Leonidas and Ekaterini, like all his brothers and sisters, was born in Koupaki.

George married twice. Not much is known of his first marriage, to **Giannoula 'Ioanna' Katsula**. Family stories relate they had one daughter, Katrina, who died at age 18. Apparently, under the misconception that her father was killed by Ottoman Turks during one of the Balkan wars, she took her own life. He was captured by the Turks and repatriated. It's believed her internment was in Piraeus, in one of the three older cemeteries in Athens. George and his second wife **Athanasia Nitsos**, had four children, two sons and two daughters. Vasilios "Bill" Georgios, Ioannis Georgios "John", Katrina, and Lamprosina "Lampro".



George made several trips to the United States. According to a ship's manifest for the S.S. Themistocles, George arrived for his second visit to the United States on 2 May 1914. It's noted that lived in the United States previously in 1912 and/or through 1913. We have been told George returned home to fight in the Balkan wars. We also know from the manifest, that in 1914 he was married to Giannoula, who resided in Koupaki. On his various stays in the U.S., George worked a variety of jobs.

Having the name George, one of the most popular names in our family, makes tracing his whereabouts difficult. As of February 1920, he was living in Deschutes, Oregon at a logging camp and “laying steel” rails. Later in the same year, the Portland City Directory shows George living with his younger brother Nicolas. By 1932 he was living next door to his brother John in Flint, Michigan and cooking in John’s restaurant.

His eldest son, Vasilios “Bill” Saites, immigrated to America where he would stay for nearly 20 years working and saving for a better life in Greece. In 1962, Bill became a naturalized citizen of the United States. While living in Chicago, Bill married Beverly Staif and they had one daughter Lisa Marie Saites. He also had a son James Peeler. James was adopted and he learned of his Greek roots though an Ancestry DNA test. After returning to Greece in 1975 Bill married Irene Bessa and they had two children, Georgios Vasilios “George” and Vasiliki 'Betty'. George is a head waiter and with his wife, Uliana Galdina Saites, now reside in New York City. Betty is a dance instructor and professional dancer performing throughout Greece. Vasiliki was nicknamed Betty, by her father. While living in America he found the Betty Boop cartoons very enjoyable. His little girl gave him so much joy he called her Betty.



*George and Uliana’s Wedding*



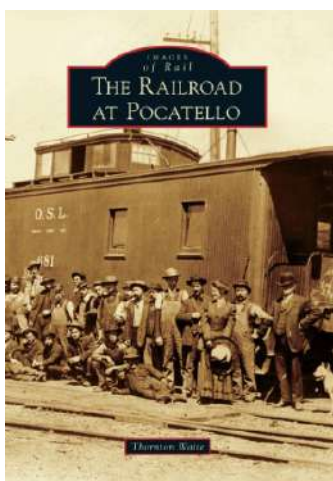
*Danny Mortensen and Betty Saites*

***Danny Mortensen Remembers:*** In the 1950s, grandpa John paid \$800 and sponsored Bill, the son of George, to the US. I remember Bill washing dishes in Danny’s Grill in Flint, Michigan. He didn’t like that and moved to Chicago to find his fortune. He became a waiter and saved his money. There was a fire in his apartment and he jumped several stories breaking his leg and spending months in the hospital. With a disability pension, he moved to Nafpaktos in 1975.

• **Ioannis Leonidas 'John' Saites** (19 Aug 1887 – 24 Jun 1969) sailed from Patras, Greece on November 19, 1907. The S.S. Laura was at sea for 19 days, before making port in New York City on December 6, 1907. At age 22, with \$20 in his pocket, he was headed for the home of a friend in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The same manifest lists Vasilios Nasiopoulos, a 17-year-old from Koupaki, who was also going to the home of the same man in Milwaukee, WI. The man was listed as an uncle. It appears John and Vasilios were traveling together.



*John L. Saites circa 1920*



Less than three years later we found John listed on the 1910 US for the residents of Columbia County, Washington. At the time he was a laborer on the railroad. After only two years here he was able to speak, read and write English. His brother Nicolas spoke highly of his older brother noting that he was very smart and was the only one who graduated from high school. We know from numerous pay manifests John remained with the railroad for 10 years.

He left Pocatello, Idaho at least a year before the 1922 Railroad Strike. A listing in the 1921 Saginaw City Directory notes John was operating a restaurant at 135 S. Washington Avenue and living about three blocks away at 234 N.

Washington Av. Research reflects John living in Saginaw

over the following four years, but we know that in 1922 he followed his brother Nicolas to Iowa. It was his intention to become a chiropractor and he began, but didn't finish classes at the Palmer School of Chiropractic.

While living in Davenport, Iowa, John married Anna Chalenko. Anna was a first cousin of Olga, the wife of John's younger brother Nicolas. Around the later part of 1923, the four of them moved to Saginaw, Michigan.



*John and his older brother George*



*John and Anna Saites Circa Early 1920s*

After leaving Nicolas and Olga in Davenport, John and Anna returned to Saginaw. John and James Stavros opened a restaurant, Saites & Stavros, next door to the restaurant which John had operated the previous two years.

During this time, Vasilios "William" Saites, a cousin, moved to Michigan from Idaho. John hired William to fill the position of a clerk at Saites & Stavros. William lived in the home of John and Anna.

On December 13, 1923, Anna gave birth to their first child Katherine in Saginaw. The following year, 1924, saw a lot of changes for John and Anna. On June 23, 1924 John received his naturalization certificate. Five days later John opened a new restaurant in Lansing, Michigan: The Coney Island Sandwich Company. The restaurant in Lansing was co-owned with his brother Nicolas (Nick). There is some confusion as to where John and Anna were living between 1924 in 1925, as they are listed in both the Saginaw and Lansing directories. The confusion may have resulted from the fact that John owned restaurants in both cities.

John and Anna's son, Theodore, was born on June 16, 1925 in Saginaw. Sadly, Theodore lived only four days. He is buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Saginaw, along with many others in our family.

John and Nicolas stayed in business together for several more years. The 1925 city directory lists them as owners of the Coney Island Lunch. By 1927 The Coney Island Lunch was owned by another cousin Gus Barris (Kolymbaris). There is no information on John and Nicolas, but in 1928 they again have a restaurant. The Ingham Lunch, just a block south of the Coney Island Lunch. The last listing for the Ingham Lunch was 1929 and it reflects that John operated the restaurant.

A year later we find John, Anna, their daughter Katherine, as well as his nephew Louis (Nicolas and Olga's son) living in Flint, Michigan. His noted occupation on the 1930 Federal Census was restaurant proprietor. The listing in the 1930 Flint City Directory, notes John as the owner of the Bungalow Sandwich Shoppe.



*Left to right: George Saites, Tom State, John Saites, Chris Psetas,  
Front: Katherine Saites Circa 1930*

John was very involved in the Flint Greek Orthodox Church and after moving to Flint, he helped pay off the church's mortgage. He was proud to serve as the President of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) Flint chapter.

Anna died in Flint on September 10, 1940. John raised their daughter Katherine on his own, choosing never to remarry. He remained in the restaurant business until his retirement. His last restaurant, Danny's Grill, was sold in 1959 to Pete Kutrus, a distant relative and uncle to his friends, Loula and George Kufasimes. Over the years John owned quite a few restaurants throughout Michigan and was in business with numerous friends and relatives including cousins Vasilios Efthemios "William" Saites, and Tom and Nick State (Stathopoulos).

In 1959, John, his daughter Katherine, son-in-law Ernest "Ernie" Mortensen, and their four children Anna, Danny, Marion Sue "Susie" and John Theodore "Johnny" moved to Tempe Arizona. Katherine's health was not well at the time and it had been suggested that a drier climate would help. Eight years later (1967), they moved to Sacramento, California to be closer to relatives.

***Danny Mortensen Remembers:*** "I remember my grandfather boxing up clothes, shoes, money, etc. to send to the village each month in the 1950s. He was generous to a fault and supported the village. He also bought two horses for the village after the war. I grew up with my fingers in the cash register at Danny's Grill for comic books and eating ice cream!"

*Photo to right Circa 1954:  
Back Row – Anna and Danny  
Middle Row – Johnny and Susie  
Front Row – Ernie, Katherine and John*



- **Efthemios Kotrotsis** (1897 – 1967) the son of Zoi and her first husband Efthemios, was born after his father's death. Sometime around the age of six or seven, Efthemios lost all vision. The story told is of an illness or eye infection that was treated by "a gypsy". Whatever was put into Efthemios' eyes had disastrous results. Despite blindness, he was very self-sufficient and contributed much to the family. According to his brother



*Efthemios Kotrotsis and his mother Zoitsa - Date Unknown*

brother Theodore Saitis and sister-in-law Athanasia Giannomitros, while they worked in the fields of Maraveli. His brother Nicolas Saites remembered him as being very smart and a very handsome man saying that "he looked just like Tom Selleck."

- **Nicolas Leonidas 'Nick' Saites** (26 Mar 1900 - 11 Mar 1986) was born in Koupaki. The following was related by Nicolas Leonidas during an interview, in the summer of 1985, and was recorded by his eldest granddaughter Sherry Saites. It was his request that she bring paper and pencil and "take down my life."



*Nicolas circa 1918*

Nicolas explained that his father's first wife, Ekaterini Stathopoulos, died, leaving him with two young sons to raise. His father's second wife, (his mother Zoitsa), who had been married for only one week, traveled with her husband (Efthemios Kotrotsis) to visit his parents in a nearby village. On their return home, they crossed a raging river and his horse lost its footing. Efthemios fell into the river and drown. His body was later discovered, trapped by the branches of a fallen tree, about a mile from where he had fallen in.

Nicolas recounted that his family had had a small farm, noting that they didn't raise animals. Those neighbors who did have animals, raised sheep and goats not wanting larger animals as they ate too much and required too much care. Nicolas named his farm in Potterville, MI, "Maraveli" in honor of his family farm below Koupaki.

At the age of ten Nicolas traveled with his father to Athens. His father left Nicolas with an uncle. This prevented him from finishing his education. He stayed in the home of his uncle for the next six years. Working to help his family, he was unable to complete his education. Nicolas made his living working as a delivery boy for a local grocery, getting paid what today would be \$1.25 a month. Waiting outside of the grocery he would listen for someone to call out "Bakális!", in English "Grocer!" He said the better you could hear and the faster you could run, the more money you could make. What money he didn't need was send home to help his mother and siblings.

He spoke of working in a resort hotel just outside of Athens. He talked about one particular event, at which he was a server. The event was a banquet hosted by Constantine, the King of Greece. Among those attending were Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany, Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria, King George of England and Czar Nicholas of Russia. He guessed that approximately 150 to 200 people were in attendance. His job was to carry the dishes to be served from the kitchen to be handed off to a bus boy who was higher in rank. That bus boy in turn would deliver the dishes to the waiters who would then serve the attendees. He was greatly impressed to be so close at times within several feet of the various heads of Europe.

During the time Nicolas was working at the hotel he met a special guest of the hotel. He recalled being 12 or 13 at the time. A wealthy American woman booked an entire floor for herself and her employees, maids and such. In an emotional moment, he related she told him about her experience as a survivor of the Titanic (which sank April 15, 1912) and how her husband was standing on the deck when the ship sank. It was obvious her story left Nicolas with an indelible memory.



*The Aberdeen Line ship TSS  
'Themistocles' circa 1911*

At 16, he had been working for six years and was now bound for the United States. His father sent Nicolas the needed fare and he purchased a ticket on the S.S. Themistocles. He left Piraeus, Greece on June 27, 1916, unaware that it would be the last time he was to see his beloved homeland.

Arriving in New York City on July 17, his destination was noted as Chicopee, Massachusetts, the home of his cousin John Stoumbos. From Chicopee he went to Portland.



*Portland Oregon Shop*

### **Early Oregon Days**

While living in Portland, Nicolas has a variety of jobs. At some point, Nicolas came across a shoeshine shop for sale. It was a small shop that only serviced a few clients at a time and the owner was selling it for \$600. He went to his father and asked if there was enough money to purchase it saying that he was sure he could make a profit from the business. Leonidas gave him



*Leonidas and sons George and Nicolas - 1918*

the \$600. After being in business for a short time, another much larger shoeshine shop, a few blocks away, was sold by the owner. After selling it, the man wanted to go back into business. He approached Nicolas with an offer to buy his shop. After being offered \$1500 Nicolas said "no, I want \$2000". The man left and came back the next day. This time he offered Nicolas \$1600. Again, Nicolas told him "No, I want \$2000." The man increased his offer to \$1800. Once more Nicolas told him no, not for \$1800 and even if he offered him \$1950, the answer would be the same.

As the story went, Nicolas offered the man a deal. He invited the man to accompany to a pool hall across the street to take some spike shots. Nicolas considered himself a bit of a pool shark. He told the man "You win I'll sell for \$1950. I win you pay \$2000." Nicolas took the first shot and pocketed the white ball, winning the bet. The man took his shot trying to break even, but lost. Turning to Nicolas he handed him some of the money and said he would bring the rest the following day. Nicolas ran home to tell his father he sold the shop. Leonidas asked if he made any money on it and was surprised to learn how much. The next day Leonidas resigned from his job as a sweeper at the railroad yard and said they should return to Greece. Nicolas told his father he didn't want to return to Greece just yet. He wanted to stay and learn English, then move to France and learn French. His hope was to return to Greece and become an interpreter. Leonidas agreed that Nicolas could stay.

Not long after his father left, Nicolas took a job in Portland, Oregon at the Alcazar Club, a "men only" private club for shipbuilders. At \$80 a month it was a well-paying job. He remembered the club as being very beautiful.

A co-worker and good friend left the Alcazar for the Benson Hotel. The Benson was then, and continues to this day, to be a world-class hotel. Many influential people of the day chose to make the Benson their home when in Portland. His friend told Nicolas there was good money and good tips to be made at the Benson. Owner Simon Benson made his fortune in lumber. The Benson Hotel opened in 1913 and by 1919 it was such a success he was able to sell it for a good profit. Nicolas remembered that the owner would eat in the dining room and looked like "...anybody. He had holes in his socks. He dressed shabby." Apparently, the waitresses would make fun of Benson, commenting to one another, when he entered the dining room, "Here comes the farmer."

Nicolas quit his job at the Alcazar and was hired as a waiter at the Benson Hotel. His \$80 a month income increased tremendously. After completing a successful training program, as all new waiters were required to do, he was hired full-time. He was making \$700-800 a month, a great deal of money in 1919, and giving his monthly pay to his father. He very much loved living

in Portland. [Note: The average income in 1920 was \$3269.40 annually. One must consider that the story was recounted some 60 years after it happened.]

## **Michigan**

John, Nicolas' older half-brother, was the first to head for Michigan. Hearing from a cousin that the hotdog stand he was running was doing great, John went to Michigan and then sent for Nicolas. Nicolas expressed regret that he left a job paying \$700-\$800 a month for a job that paid \$80 a month.



*Wedding of Olga Chalenko and Nicolas Saites,  
May 3, 1922 in Saginaw, Michigan*

After moving to Saginaw, Nicolas was introduced to a young Ukrainian woman, Olga Chalenko. They were married on May 3, 1922. It wasn't long after that, that his brother John learned of a Coney Island restaurant in Davenport, Iowa, currently owned by a cousin, that was up for sale. Though he couldn't recall the original price of the place, Nicolas credited his brother John for making the down payment.

## **Iowa**

Nicolas and his new wife Olga moved to Davenport and took over the responsibility for the Coney Island Shop at 221 E 6th. Late in the evening on November 22, 1923, their first and only child was born. He was named Louis. He was named for his paternal grandfather Leonidas. Nicolas thought Louis was a good way to Americanize Leonidas. When considering it later, he thought perhaps Leon would have been a better choice.

About a year after moving to Davenport, Nicolas and Olga sold the Coney Island for \$2000. On June 3, 1923, after selling the first restaurant, they opened a second which was closer to downtown at 204 W 3rd. They were happy moving to a nicer area of Davenport. Unfortunately, the second restaurant didn't do well. Unable to make ends meet they decided to give up the restaurant and return to Michigan.



*Nicolas and Olga, Davenport, Iowa 1923*

## **Back to Michigan**

By the age of 24, Nicolas had been involved in several business ventures, married, had a child, and moved on numerous occasions. 1924 would turn out to be one of the most impactful years of his young life. Before the year was out, he started two new restaurants, moved from Davenport to Bay City and then to Lansing. His young wife Olga was pregnant with their second child and as a result of complications died at the age of 19.

For a while he tried raising his year-old son, while working full-time in the restaurant business. He placed ads in the local newspaper, searching for childcare. Eventually he was overwhelmed and asked his Ukrainian mother-in-law, Orpha Chalenko, if she would to take his son and raise him. She agreed and Louis was to live with his grandmother for the next four years.

Over the years Nicolas operated numerous restaurants, some on his own and others in partnership. He and his brother John opened their first Lansing restaurant in 1924 on Washington Avenue – the Coney Island Lunch, next was the Ingham Lunch in 1927. Nicolas said he made some bad decisions and had some financial difficulties. His brother John "got disgusted" because Nicolas was spending too much money. Nicolas admitted he was very extravagant, had a lot of fun and was careless with his money. John was so upset that he sold both restaurants and moved back to Saginaw. He loaned Nicolas \$1,000 and told him he was on his own.

It was now 1929 and Nicolas went into partnership with Thomas Lagios (president) and Gus Barris (secretary-treasurer) and became vice president of the Red Top Way Tavern at 2321 E. Michigan Avenue, in Lansing. The property and building were owned by Henry Owens, who leased it to Nicolas and his partners for 99 years. The Red Top was the first Lansing drive-in. He also ran dances at the Armory Hall with stars like Rudy Vallee, and the Ben Burney band. He took over as sole proprietor in 1930 and renamed the restaurant the Red Top Lucky Boy. He

changed the name several more times over the next ten years. He also took on a partner, Nick Petroff, in 1940. The following is a compilation of businesses he owned or was associated with, garnered from the Lansing city directories and newspaper archives:

Sylvandale Inn (Manager), M-16 East from Capitol 1926

Ingham Lunch, 116 N Washington Avenue 1928

The Red Top Tavern, 2321 E. Michigan Avenue 1929-1933

The Hut, 2321 E. Michigan Avenue 1934-1938

Southern House Chef (owned by his wife), 2321 E Michigan Avenue 1939

French Village Café, 536 E. Michigan Avenue 1940

The New Hut (with Nick Petroff), 2321 E. Michigan Avenue 1940

The Hollister Coffee Shop, 108 W Allegan 1941-1985

As reported in the Lansing State Journal, Nicolas became a United States citizen in 1933.

His son Louis remained with his grandmother Orpha for four years, when she contacted Nicolas and told him the boy needed to be with his father. It was around that time Nicolas asked his brother John and sister-in-law Anna to take the boy. Louis remained with his aunt and uncle until Nicolas remarried in 1936.

Nicolas never spoke of his second wife, nor did Louis. It was only years later that the documentation was discovered. Nicolas did mention that he had girlfriend and that she

lived with him and Louis. The marriage ended when Nicolas arrived home from work, to find his wife trying to hold Louis' hand over an open flame on the stove. She claimed that he had misbehaved and she was trying to discipline him. Nicolas said he "kicked her out" and said no more. It was only later that we pieced together the story. He became engaged to Marie Hidakis from Battle Creek and they were married in her father's home on September 1, 1936. At the time Nicolas was operating The Hut. A year later he still owned the Hut, and the Southern House, which Marie managed. Four years later Marie was granted a divorce in 1940.



*Marie Hidakis & Louis circa early 1930s*



*Nicolas and Margaret Davey Saites 1941*

A year later Nicolas married for the third and final time. He and Margaret Davey ( 1918-1996) were married on October 13, 1941. They remain married for the rest of his life and had five children: John Nicholas (1942-2000), William Nicholas "Bill", Jacqueline Mae "Jackie", Linda Zoe (1946-2000), and Nicholas Louis Junior "Nick".

After Nicolas and Margaret married, he opened The Hollister Coffee Shop in the Hollister Building on Allegan Street in Lansing. During the years he operated the Hollister Coffee Shop he was very involved in the Lansing Restaurant Association, serving for a time as the president and a member of the Board of Trustees. He remained in business until his retirement. His wife Margaret and youngest son Nick Jr. took over the management of the restaurant until it closed in 1985.

His kindness and generosity were exhibited in 1950 when he offered to help a young woman, Joyce Stickney. A newspaper article at the time reported that Joyce had been arrested for passing bad checks and Nicolas offered her a job and the chance to make things right. Joyce declared that "it would be wonderful to have the job and a chance to square myself." She accepted the job, paid her debt and remained a loyal employee at the Hollister Coffee Shop for the rest of her career.

Never forgetting his family in the village, he continued sending money home, at least until his mother passed. Nicolas died on March 11, 1986 and is interred in the Deepdale Memorial Park Mausoleum in Easton County, MI.



**Sherry Saites Remembers:** Later as an adult, Nicolas wrote a movie script, based mainly on his life experiences. The conversation with the woman who survived the sinking was included in the script. Thinking it would be a good movie, he wrote a letter to Clark Gable, telling him about his life and his idea for a movie. He never heard back from him but took the rejection in stride. Unfortunately, he did not keep a copy of the script.

During his recitation of "his life" Nicolas briefly spoke of Dimitrios (Jim), his brother who never left Greece; his sister, Dimitroula, who married **Demetrios Katsikas** from Klima and their son, George, who had an influential position with the phone company. He recalled his sister Mantha,

brothers Theodore and Konstantine as his other younger siblings. He was proud that Konstantine was an assistant police chief in Salonika. He remembered Konstantine as a very bright and proud man. There was a heavy sadness in his voice when he related that Konstantine took his own life.

- **Dimitrios Leonidas 'Jim' Saitis** (1902-1983) married **Panagiota Koenis** and had three daughters, Polyxeni, Ioanna, and Zoe.
- **Dimitroula Saitis (1904-1982)** married **Dimetrios Katsikas** and that they had two sons. Demetrius and George.

- **Evanthia 'Mantha' Saitis** (1906 –2016) Mantha lived a long and rather extraordinary life and experienced more than most could ever imagine. She was only a year old when her older brother, John, left for America. Over the next nine years two more brothers, Georgios and Nicolas, and her father Leonidas would also leave for America. The majority of the villagers in Koupaki were farmers. The Saites family was no different and eventually Mantha would work alongside her family in the fields of Maraveli. She was 110 years of age!

Her youth was touched by continual wars – the Balkan wars of 1912 to 1913, the Great War of (World War I) 1916 – 1918, and the Greco-Turkish War, 1919 – 1922. The years just before, during, and after World War II would have perhaps the most impact on her early life. In 1940,

Mantha married **Aristotelis Kolymparis**. In December of the same year their first child, Polyxeni "Pauline" was born. Their son Gregory was born three years later

Aristotelis died during WW II leaving Mantha a widow with two small children. Many of the men in the villages of Koupaki and Krokyllo were fighting in the war either as part of the Royal Greek Army (loyalists) or the local Communist resistance against the Nazis. The Italians and Germans were occupiers of most of the country. Life for the villagers was difficult and often dangerous. For those who survived World War II, concerns for security and peace were not over.



*Evanthia 'Mantha' Saitis*

As the war ended there was an aggressive move by the Communist Party to take over Greece. The fears and agonies of the Nazi occupation hardly abated when the Greek Civil War began (1946-1949). The Greek Communist Party was bolstered in their attempted takeover by the nearby communist countries of Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Albania. Living in the villages during the Civil War was precarious at best and for children, it was downright dangerous. We are aware of that one of Mantha's brothers was fighting on the side of the Greek loyalist army. We're not certain on what date, but he returned to the village to warn his family of the encroaching Communist soldiers. He urged them to leave quickly.



*Gregory Kolymparis*

During the Civil War a great many Greek children were abducted by communist forces. The kidnapped children were taken to iron curtain countries where they were indoctrinated and often used as forced labor. The villagers had little choice, but to gather what they could carry and leave the village in the middle of the night.



Most made the decision to travel south to the larger town of Nafpaktos and protection of loyal government forces. The trip from the villages to Nafpaktos is approximately 50 kilometers by car and today takes about an hour and a half to drive. During their escape there was no option other than to walk and it was a very arduous journey over rough terrain and through dense forest. It was necessary that they travel only at night and remain hidden during the daylight hours. It took several days for Mantha and the children to make the Journey from Koupaki to Nafpaktos. Mantha had the burden to carry what belongings she could, as well as her youngest child Gregory. She managed somehow to hold her small daughter Pauline's hand as well. One cannot imagine how difficult it must have been for the villagers to travel over the rough terrain in what little moonlight filtered through the trees. Nor is it easy to imagine the tremendous relief when finally, the town of Nafpaktos came into view. Mantha was a brave and strong woman deserving of immense respect and enduring love.

Eventually Mantha and the children made their way to Athens. As a war widow, Mantha was permitted to operate a small kiosk in , a suburb of Athens, whereby she was able to make enough to support her small family.



*The kiosk in Pagrati*



*Mantha and Aristotelis Kolymparis with Zoitsa Saitis*

After retiring, Mantha spent her later years with her son Gregory and daughter-in-law, Argyro. When her daughter Pauline and son-in-law Bill Tasakos returned to Greece, Mantha moved to their home in Marathias, 20 miles east of Nafpaktos.

She was lovingly cared for until her passing on June 15, 2016 at the age of 110. She lived such a long life and after losing so many family and friends, she would often say *"God has forgotten me."*

Greece survived the Civil War with the help of the US Marshal Plan and President Truman who provided military aid, funds, and food.

**Note:** If you would like to know more about life in Greece during the attempted Communist take-over there is a stirring account by Nicholas Gage in his book "Eleni" which was made into a movie by the same name. This is a true story of a mother's love and a son's revenge. In 1948, as a civil war ravages Greece, the communists terrorize villages by abducting children and sending them to communist camps inside the Iron Curtain. Eleni Gatzoyiannis defies the communists and arranges for the escape of her three daughters and son Nicola. For this, she is captured, tortured, and executed in cold blood. Years later, her son, a reporter for the New York Times, returns home to discover the facts surrounding his mother's death, and hunt down the man who murdered her.

Pauline, daughter of Mantha and Aristotelis, met and married Vasilios 'Bill' Tasakos in Greece in 1960. Shortly after, they moved to the United States, settling in Saginaw, Michigan. They have three children: Leonidas, Aristotelis 'Telly', and Dimitra 'Jamie'. In 1975, Pauline, Bill and their three children relocated to California, where Bill remained in the restaurant business successfully operating two different establishments. Bill and Pauline retired in 1995 and moved back to his home village of Marathias. Bill passed away on September 20, 2016.



*Bill and Pauline Tasakos  
on their wedding day*



Mantha and Aristotelis' only son Gregory, retired after a successful career as a notary public. He and his wife Argyro Giarmenitou have two sons: Aristotelis and Andreas. Gregory and his wife Argyro have retired to the seaside village of Oropos about one hour northwest of Athens.



*From left: Sherry Saites, Danny Mortensen, Gregory's (kneeling), Andreas, Argyro, Elizabeth Petraki, and Aristotelis Kolymparis (kneeling). Taken in Oropos, Greece 2016*



*Danny Mortensen, sister Anna, daughter Litsa, Bill and Pauline Tasakos*



*Gregory, Danny, Argyro at the new Acropolis Museum, 2014*



*Danny Mortensen, Mantha (Saitis) Kolymparis, Litsa, Anna, and Gregory in Pagrati, Athens*

- **Theodoros Leonidas 'Theodore' Saitis** (1908 – 1989) and his wife **Athanasia Giannomitros** had four children, **Konstantinos "Kosta"**, **Panagiota**, **Zoi**, and **Leonidas**. They lived in Koupaki, in the two-room stone house which he inherited from his father, Leonidas, where they remained there throughout their lives and raised their children. There was an attached covered open-porch beneath which was a stone oven. His half-brother, Efthemios, slept outside on the porch. Theodore served as the Koupaki village president.

Their daughter Zoi married **Aris Karagiorgos**. If their son Leonidas married we have been unable to find any information. Their son Kosta married **Vasso Loungi**. Their second daughter Panagiota married **Nikolas Pagonis** and they live in Canada.

**Gregory Kolymparis Remembers:** Theodore and all his brothers and sisters spelled the name Saitis. Theodore's children have changed to Seitis.



*Theodoros and Athanasia Saitis*

*Photo by Danny Mortensen on his first visit in 1965 at age 19.*

*Kosta Seitis, 1965, on the mountain above the village. He is now retired from the Post Office. Kosta and his wife have two sons: Theodoros and Dimitrious.*



**Danny Mortensen Remembers:** I stayed with Theodore Saitis and his wife, Athanasia on my first trip to Greece in 1965. Louie and Kosta were present during this visit and Kosta and I herded sheep on the mountain for a few days. Gregory Kolymparis was my guide to Greece and introduced me to all the relatives that summer.

Danny met Dimitrios, half-brother of his grandfather, in Athens who had married Panagiota Koenis. They had the three prettiest girls in Koupaki: Polyxeni, Zoi, and Ioanna. His house in Koupaki is on the old village square.

Years later with wife his Cheryl Lacefield Mortensen, sister Anna Mortensen Gray, and daughter Litsa, they visited the village and the graves of Theodore and Athanasia. Their modest stone house had been beautifully upgraded by their youngest son, Kosta and his wife Vasso.



*Above: House of Dimitrios*

Right: On his second trip to Greece in 1969, Danny took his brother Johnny, age 11, and sister, Susie, age 15. They spent some time with Theodore and Athanasia in Koupaki.



- **Konstantine Leonidas Saitis** (1913 - 1938) was police chief in Salonika. It is unknown what circumstances led up to taking his own life. He was married and had at least one child.

In the photo (top page 49) are some of the Koupaki villagers at the Konandreas/Saitis animal shelter in 1938. Note the slate roof.

*Seated left to right: 1. Asimo Zakas, 2. Zoe Zakas (both Kolymparis cousins), 3. Pepsa Kolymparis (sister of the Aristotelis father of Pauline Tasakos and Gregory Kolymparis), 4 & 5. Kolymparis cousins, 6. Angie Konandreas Kufasimes (mother of George & Loula Kufasimes in Sacramento).*

*Standing left to right: 1. Theodore Saitis, 2. Polyxeni, Zoe, or Ioanna Saitis (one of the three daughters of Dimitrios), 3. Thanasios Konandreas (brother to Angie), 4. Unknown, 5. Godmother to Mantha (Saitis) Kolymparis, 6. Grandmother of George & Loula Kufasimes.*



- Louis Nick Saites** (1923 – 2002) was born in Davenport, Iowa, where his father Nicolas and mother Olga operated a small hotdog stand, the Coney Island Shop. While he was still an infant, his parents moved back to Michigan ultimately settling in Lansing. His mother, suffered complications from a pregnancy and succumbed to excessive hemorrhaging on October 27, 1924. After his mother's death Louis remained with his father for a short period of time, evidenced by want ads placed by his father in the local paper. It seems his ads were fruitless and he couldn't find the help of a babysitter. When the situation reached the point of simply being too difficult for Nicolas, he requested the help of his mother-in-law, Orpha Chalenko in Saginaw. Louis remained in the care of his grandmother Chalenko until early 1929.



*Louis Nick Saites 1924*



*Katherine Saites Mortensen, her mother Anna Chalenko Saites, Louis Nick Saites circa 1930's*

His grandfather, Michael Chalenko, became ill and passed away February 25, 1929. With the loss of her husband, Orpha was unable to care for her grandson and asked Nicolas to take responsibility for caring for his son. Nicolas, feeling he was unable to do so, then sought the help of his brother, John and sister-in-law Anna. They agreed to take in their young nephew and raise him with their daughter Katherine. The two of them became inseparable companions.

Around the age of 10, Louis returned to the care of his father in Lansing. In 1936, when Louis was 12 years old, his father married for a second time (Aug. 30, 1936). Louis never spoke of his stepmother, Maria Hirakis. In an interview with Nicolas's granddaughter, Sherry Saites, he talked about a 'girlfriend' and how their relationship ended because of her abusive treatment of Louis. The marriage ended in divorce on October 28, 1940. Maria returned to Battle Creek and died Sep. 19, 1946.

Newspaper accounts from the Lansing State Journal reflect Louis as a popular student. He was the homeroom president, captain of the swim team, and vice president of the Soap Carving Club. An article from December of 1939, tells of a surprise Christmas celebration at Pattengill High School. The article notes that Santa Claus was played by Louis Saites.

On October 5, 1940, at the age of 16, Louis enlisted in the United States Army. Not having the permission of his father and not being of legal age he contrived evidence of a false birth date. He altered his Greek Orthodox baptismal certificate adding two years to his age. It's difficult to

understand how he was able to get away with this ruse. With a quick examination of the baptismal certificate it's clearly evident that the original date written in ink was erased and a new date penciled in. The certificate reads "Certificate of Birth and Baptism" and apparently was acceptable evidence for the U.S. Army.

Whatever the circumstances he was now an Army private struggling through boot camp at Camp Custer, Michigan. It must've been quite difficult for him, because he went AWOL and sought sanctuary at the home of his grandmother, Orpha Chalenko.

Not long after Louis went AWOL, his duffel bag was discovered floating in the river. After Louis was found, Nicolas received a visit from Louis's Battalion Commander, a colonel. Speaking with Nicolas, the colonel said, that if Louis return to Camp Custer, he would keep an eye on him and make sure Nicolas was kept informed. The colonel was good to his word and Nicolas heard from him many times over the next few years.



December 7<sup>th</sup> 1941, 18-year-old Louis was in the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. His first war assignment, in the spring of 1942 found him in Reykjavik, Iceland. He worked undercover for the intelligence unit, ferreting out Icelandic individuals suspected of spying for the Germans.

Investigating one specific suspect proved very difficult. Louis went to great lengths to discover what he could about the man's activities. Dating the man's daughter failed to gain him entrance to the house so Louis married her. Louis then discovered the man was indeed a spy and was radioing information to the Germans. The man was arrested and Louis moved on to his next assignment. When asked if he was divorced, he said no, he didn't consider it a real marriage.

In May of 1943, the 5<sup>th</sup> Division, now re-designated as the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, sailed for England. The 5<sup>th</sup> began two years of training in preparation for the Invasion of Northwest Europe. While in England and North Ireland, Louis, continued working with the intelligence unit. Only this time he was scrutinizing men within his own unit. Those suspected of being German sympathizers were targeted. The nearing D-Day invasion necessitated his transfer of duties from intelligence to infantry.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry landed on Utah Beach, July 9, 1944 a month after D-Day. The 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry, part of Patton's Third Army participated in the Battle of Metz, during the Lorraine Campaign. The Battle of Fort Driant occurred as part of the larger attempt to take Metz. It was during the Battle of Fort Driant that 20-year old Staff Sgt. Louis Saites was captured on October 7, 1944. He and several other men happened to be in the bunker when it was approached by a German tank and a number of German soldiers. He and the others had no choice, but to surrender.



*POW Identification tag issued to Louis by the Germany Army*

His father Nicolas received a letter from the War Department, dated October 29, 1944, notifying him that as of October 7<sup>th</sup> his son was missing in action. In reality, by the time the letter was delivered, Louis was a prisoner of the Germans in Stammlager XIIA. He spoke very little about his wartime experiences. The following recounts what little he shared.

The first prison, often referred to as a Stalag, was a prisoner processing center in Limburg, Germany. Upon arrival prisoners were interrogated, sorted, and issued a POW dog tag (above). He was assigned POW # 93 244. Since Limburg was only a processing center it wasn't long before he was shipped to a second permanent camp.

The trip from Limburg to Stalag III C, was arduous. Large numbers of prisoners were packed into cattle cars, in what was basically standing room only. The trip took no fewer than seven hours. Louis was to remain in Stalag III C until January 31, 1945.



*Stalag III C, in the village of Alt Drewitz bei Küstrin, Brandenburg, Germany (now Drzewice, Kostrzyn nad Odrą, Poland)*

- ♦ The following account is from a Lansing State Journal, article published on May 13, 1945:



"The war is over for Staff Sgt. Louis Saites, 23, returned prisoner of war, but it will be years before he will be able to obliterate from his mind memories of the five months he spent in a German prison camp. Despite the fact that he is now safely recuperating at home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Saites, 707 Comfort street, before being honorably discharged from service, Sergeant Saites shudders as he recalls the mental and physical torture he endured from the time he was captured by the Nazis, until he made his escape.

"A veteran of the five years of army life, Sergeant Saites spent 43 months in Iceland, the British Isles, and France with Gen. George Patton's Third army infantry. He was captured October 7, 1944, while attacking a fort at Metz. He was first taken to camp No. 12-A at Limberg, Germany, and later transferred to Kustrum, camp No. 3-C.

#### **"In Sweat Box Two Weeks**

"Sergeant Saites related how the Nazis subjected to prisoners to the torture of the sweat box for as much as three weeks at a time, trying to force them to give out allied plans. He told of being locked in one for two weeks, on a bread and water diet.

"As a non-commissioned officer," he said, "I was respected to some extent, and was not forced to slave as were the privates and corporals. Those poor devils, weak to the point of exhaustion, from malnutrition, were forced to push box cars by hand, build railroads, and dig out bombarded buildings and supplies.

““We were huddled in three room barracks, 25 men to a room,” he said. “Prisoner of war regulations stated that we were entitled to mattresses of hay, but instead we were forced to sleep on mattress ticks filled with wood shavings, on the floor, with the wind and damp sweeping through the unfinished wall. Many times we would pile snow in the cracks to keep out the cold. We were allowed one blanket, but the Red Cross issued us over-coats, and by sleeping back to back, we were able to survive the cold. We were given just enough fuel to build three or four small fires each week.”

### **“Diet Was Scanty**

“He said their “scanty diet” allowed them a cup of ersatz coffee made of burnt barley, and a piece of black bread spread with margarine made from coal oil, for breakfast. Once a week they were given a spoonful of marmalade. At noon, they were served a “liter” (three cups) of soup, made from rutabagas, sugar beets, and rotten horsemeat, with no seasoning.

““Sometimes”, he said, we would have what the boys called ‘grass soup,’ which was made from some kind of weed. Then at night we would have ersatz tea. Then if we were lucky, once a week we would be given a tiny piece of salami, or ground raw horsemeat. The only drinking water we had was from a small pump which served 1,000 men. The water was so vile-tasting that we would wait until our lips were swollen, and our throats parched before we would drink it.”

“Saïtes said he had just one bath in all the time he was a prisoner. In his area there were 3,000 Russians, 1,000 French, and 2,000 Americans, and there was but one shower to the entire camp. The soap was made of clay, and stuck to their bodies so, that they could not wash it off in the short time they were allowed use of the water. Sometimes, he said, they were lucky enough to get soap in Red Cross boxes, which were received on an average of every other week. They were allowed no cigarettes except those in the boxes. If any man was found possessing more than three packs, they were taken away from him by the German authorities.

### **“Hospitals Filthy**

““The prison hospitals,” Saïtes said, “were even filthier than our barracks. I was wounded in the right thigh, when captured, but refused first aid, knowing I would be given no anesthetic. I prodded the shrapnel out of my leg, myself, and applied first aid.”



A year later Louis was once again a civilian. Staying with relatives in Flint, Michigan he went out for the evening. He met Rosemary Huber, who having been discharged from the U.S. Navy, was also in Flint visiting relatives. They were married a week later on June 1, 1946. Undecided about future employment he talked with Rosemary's brother-in-law who encouraged Louis to re-enlist, which he did 10 days after getting married.

After re-enlisting Louis volunteered to work as an investigator for the Nuremberg trials. Because of his status as a POW his request was denied. Instead his first assignment was in the Criminal Investigation Division. Shortly after the birth of his first daughter he was assigned to work, what would be, the most unusual incident of his time in the CID, the Roswell Incident.

By 1951 Louis and Rosemary had moved three times, welcomed two daughters, bought the only house they would ever own. Soon after their move to California Louis was shipped to Korea. During the Korean Conflict Lt. Saïtes served as an aerial reconnaissance photographer. Near the end of his deployment his plane was shot down and he was shipped to Japan for medical treatment and recovery. From there he was shipped to Okinawa where his family would meet him.

While stationed in Okinawa Louis and Rosemary had their third child, a daughter they named Nanette (Nov 19, 1953-Nov 19, 1953). They were devastated that Nanette died during birth. Burials of Americans in Post-war Okinawa was very complicated. First there were no funeral homes or funeral directors to help the grieving parents through the process. There was no one at the cemetery to dig the grave or bury the deceased. An ever greater stumbling block was maneuvering the process to obtain permission for burial from the local government officials. At the time Louis was responsible for the management of the Officer's Club on base. Most of the employees were local Okinawans. Several of them offered to help Louis in getting permission to bury his infant daughter in the International Cemetery of Tomari. They assisted in the purchase of a small coffin covered in blue silk brocade, and they took responsibility for digging the grave and burying the casket. Louis remembered the grave as being next to or very close to the Commodore Perry monument. Over the years the grave markers have been ravaged by years of inclement weather. Her simple wooden cross and the location of the grave have been forever lost.

After two years in Okinawa, Louis and his family returned to the States. It was at this time the Army instituted a new rotation system called Operation Gyroscope. It was envisioned that Operation Gyroscope would boost the morale of the troops, bring stability to military family life, and a more functional goal - reduce costs. Louis, a 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Company Commander, was transferred five times in three years, but there was a certain cohesion in

being with friends, neighbors and coworkers. During Operation Gyroscope Louis and Rosemary had two sons, Michael and Nicholas and spent three years in Germany.



*Louis Saites, standing by the bunker, where he was captured in Nancy, France.*

In 1955 Germany was accepted into NATO and by the end of the year the newly formed German army was scheduled to receive training from the U. S. Army. Louis, was selected to participate in the training maneuvers.

One evening, after a day in the field, Louis dropped by the Officer's Club. He noticed a German Lieutenant sitting alone at the bar. Louis sat nearby and they started a conversation. As military men of the time were prone to do, they started comparing their war time experiences.

They were soon to discover they had a lot in common. Both fought in France, and were at the battle of Ft. Driant.

Louis offered details about the incident leading to his capture. It was then that the surprised Lieutenant revealed that he was one of the German soldiers who took part in the capture. The two continued their discussion throughout the evening and ended the evening as friends. Louis often retold the story and always chuckled when he mentioned that the lieutenant was still the same rank as he was during the capture, but he, Louis, was no longer a sergeant, but a captain. It pleased him that he that he outranked his former captor.

During the 12 years, of their marriage Louis and Rosemary had five children Sherry, Nicolette "Nicki", Nanette, Michael "Mike", and Nicholas "Nick". Moving often was the life of a military family and over the years they lived in Fort Dix, New Jersey; Sandia Base, New Mexico; Fort Ord, California; Naha, Okinawa; Camp Polk, Louisiana; Fort Riley, Kansas; Fort Benning, Georgia, Bamberg, Germany and the Presidio of San Francisco, California.

Throughout their marriage Rosemary often suffered the debilitating effects of ulcerative colitis. During their preparations to return to the states from Germany she became seriously ill and was hospitalized. Louis and the four children flew home and settled in at Fort Benning as they awaited the arrival of Rosemary. A month later she was air lifted to MacDill Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. It was there that it was discovered she had stage 4 colon cancer. Louis

requested and received a compassionate leave transfer to the Presidio of San Francisco. He wanted Rosemary to be near her family who lived an hour south of the base. On September 1, 1958, Rosemary passed away surrounded by her loving family.

A year later Louis met and fell in love with Leonora "Loni" Gottheiner. They were married in 1959 and a year and a half later their daughter Victoria "Vicki" was born. Louis was assigned as Recruiting Adjutant for the 6<sup>th</sup> Army and was considering a request for reassignment to the Infantry. After the discovery of a heart issue and having 21 years of active military service he decided to retire in June of 1962.

Upon retirement the family relocated to Princeton, New Jersey and Louis took a position with McGraw- Hill Publishing Company in New York City. After a few months he and his family discovered they were not happy in New Jersey. He thought Arizona, where his beloved Uncle John Saites lived, might better suit them. They left New Jersey shortly after and scheduled a short visit with his family in Michigan before continuing on to Arizona. During the Michigan visit his father convinced him to stay, so Arizona was out. He and the family remained in Michigan for many years. Not satisfied with retirement, Louis had a variety of positions from insurance agent, to restaurant owner, to law book salesman, and finally chef. He found being a chef the most satisfying and enjoyable. He, Loni and their three youngest children moved to Florida in 1972. Louis was a head chef for Walt Disney World, working at the Polynesian, Crystal Palace, Central Foods, and the Top of the World restaurants. He also was head chef for the Hilton Longboat Key Beachfront Resort. He finally settled into retirement and picked up a new avocation – ship building. Over the years he built 5 model ships. The first two ships were small prefabricated kits. The last three built were constructed from plans and every piece cut, formed, painted and built from scratch. He made his own lathe and formed his carving tools by grinding down old kitchen knives. He enjoyed his hobby for years to come until he succumbed to a heart attack.

***Danny Mortensen Remembers:*** When Louis retired, he visited the Mortensen family (and grandpa John) in Tempe, Arizona in 1962 and was seriously considering moving his family to be close to grandpa John because grandpa raised him with Katherine. Uncle Nick convinced him to return to Lansing where he started a French restaurant. He later moved to the Orlando area and worked as a head chef at Disneyworld before retiring again. He loved to cook and worked at several restaurants until finally retiring a second time in Florida.

## Lineage of Leonidas Georgios Saitis

I	Leonidas Georgios Saitis	(1861-1935)
	<i>Ekaterini Stathopoulos</i>	(18??-1897)
A	Georgios 'George' Leonidas Saitis	(1884-1951)
	<i>Giannoula 'Ioanna' Katsula</i>	(????-????)
1	Katrina Saitis [died age 18]	(????-????)
	<i>Athanasia Nitsos</i>	(1903-1988)
1	Leonidas Georgios Saitis (died before age 1)	(19??-19??)
2	Lambrosina Saitis	(19??-1978)
	<i>Dino Nikitaides [from Nafpaktos]</i>	(1925-2012)
a	Efthemia "Effie" Nikitaides	
	<i>Nick Vitinaros</i>	
b	George Nikitaides [twin of Efthemia]	
	<i>Unknown Spouse</i>	
c	Savoula "Voula" Nikitaides	
	<i>Unknown Ferich</i>	
d	Athanasia Nikitaides [twin of Savoula]	
	<i>Unknown Spouse</i>	
3	Katina Saitis	(19??-1998)
	<i>John Dounis</i>	
a	Athanasia Dounis	(19??-1975)
b	George Dounis	
	<i>Effie Paia</i>	
i	Unknown Dounis	
ii	Unknown Dounis	
iii	Unknown Dounis	
4	Vasilios "Bill" Georgios Saites	
	<i>Beverly Staif</i>	
a	Lisa Marie Saites	
	<i>Unknown</i>	
a	James Peeler	

**Irene Bessa**

a Georgios Vasilios Saites

*Uliana Galdina*

b Vasiliki "Betty" Saites

5 Ioannis "John" Georgios Saitis (1939-1991)

*Soula Atamegoy*

a George Saitis

B Ioannis "John" Leonidas Saites (1887-1969)

*Anna Chalenko* (1904-1940)

1 Katherine J Saites (1923-1975)

*Ernest "Ernie" Alfred Mortensen* (1918-2004)

a Daniel Ernest "Danny" Mortensen

*Glenda Cheryl "Cheryl" Lacefield*

i Ty Austin Mortensen

ii Litsa Ann Mortensen

b Anna Mortensen

*Robert Varin*

i Jamie Varin

*Randy Gray*

c Marion Sue Mortensen

d John Theodore Mortensen

2 Theodore Saites (1923-1975)

*Zoitsa "Zoi" Konandreas* (1867-1963)

A Nicolas Leonidas "Nick" Saites (1900-1986)

*Olga Chalenko*

1 Louis Nick Saites (1923-2002)

*Rosemary Alice Huber* (1921-1958)

a Sherry Lee Saites

*Gloria Jean Wilson*

- b Nicolette Louise "Nicki" Saites  
     *Rick William Whifers*  
     *Francis Eugene "Frank" Wilson*
  - i Elizabeth Sarah "Beth" Wilson
  - ii Todd Christopher Wilson

c Nanette Saites (1953-1953)

- d Michael Henry "Mike" Saites  
     *Ramona Jenkins*

- e Nicholas Louis "Nick" Saites  
     *Mary Louise Glibee*
  - i Louis Nicholas Saites
  - ii Alexander James Saites
  - iii Jessica Helen Saites  
     *Jenny Melissa 'Missy' Brewer*  
     *Alice Clara "Ally" Mills*

*Lenora Johanna "Loni" Gottheiner* (1920-2006)

- a Victoria Sophia "Vicki" Saites  
     *Mark Roy Culver*
  - i Allison Emma "Alli" Culver
  - ii Kimberly Kate "Kim" Culver

*Elsie Yax*

1 Norman Clifford Karr Jr (1924-2005)

*Marie F Hirkis* (1908-1946)

*Margaret Elene Davey* (1918-1996)

1 John Nickolous Saites (1942-2000)

*Linda Ann Clinton* (1941-2009)

- a Christie Ann Saites  
     *Robert J Vander Vliet*

- i Ashley Vander Vliet
- ii Riley Jo Vander Vliet

***George L Kaldis***

- b Carrie Lynn Saites
- Kurt F Stefan***

***Nancy Elizabeth Field***

- a Christopher John Saites
- b Holly Elizabeth Saites

**2 William Nicholas "Bill" Saites**

***Sharon Kaye Mead***

- a Michelle Kae Saites
- Unknown Staggs***
- i Aaron Staggs

***Robert Rios***

- b Gregory William Saites
- Julia Santana***

***Pamela Jane Vallance***

**3 Jacqueline Mae "Jackie" Saites**

***Douglas Kahl***

- a Steven Christopher Kahl
- Sharie Ann Pirochta***
- b Craig Patrick Kahl

***John Pung***

***Allan Ralston***

**4 Lynda Zoitcha Saites**

(1946-2000)

***Roger Francis Saylor***

- a James Scott Saylor
- Viola Marie Stratton***
- i Dominic Saylor

ii Tyler Saylor

*Marie Alonso*

b Lisa Mae Saylor

*Anthony Feighner*

i Zoe Kaelyn Feighner

ii Tristan Tyler Feighner

5 Nicholas Louis Saites Jr

*Penny Lee Smith*

a Sarah Jane Saites

b Eric Nicholas Saites

B Dimitrios Leonidas "Jim" Saitis

(1902-1984)

*Panagiota Koenis*

1 Polyxeni Saites

*Themistocles Kalatzis*

a Afrodite-Efthemia Kalatzis

b Dimitrios Kalatzis

2 Ioanna Saitis

*Nikolaos Kaligeris*

a Dimitrios Kaligeris

3 Zoe Saitis

*Athnasios Rouskas*

a Odysseus Rouskas

*Vivian Unknown*

i Unknown Rouskas

ii Unknown Rouskas

iii Unknown Rouskas

C Dimitroula Saitis

*Dimitrios Katsikas*

- 1 **George Katsikas**  
***Georgia Baboos***
    - a **Dimitra Katsikas**  
***Christo Ioannou***
      - i **Anastasia Ioannou**
      - ii **Stavros Ioannou**
    - b **Maria Katsikas**
  - 2 **Demitrius Katsikas** (1939-1940)
- D **Evanthis "Mantha" Saitis** (1906-2016)  
***Aristotelis Kolymparis*** (1904-1940)
- 1 **Polyxeni "Pauline" Kolymparis**  
***Vasilios Leonidas "Bill" Tasakos*** (1930-2016)
    - a **Leonidas "Leo" Tasakos**  
***Zagorka Anna Mirjanovic***  
***Charlene J Angove***
      - i **Vasiliki Tasakos**
      - ii **Thaddeus Tasakos**
    - b **Aristotelis "Telly" Tasakos**  
***Angela Marie Evison***
      - i **Ryan Tasakos**
      - ii **Alexandra Tasakos**
    - c **Dimitra Eufrosini "Jamie" Tasakos**  
***David J Durrell***
      - i **Adrianna Durrell**
      - ii **William Durrell**
  - 2 **Gregory Aristotelis Kolymparis**  
***Argiro Giarmentou***
    - a **Andreas Kolymparis**
    - b **Aristotelis Kolymparis**  
***Elizabeth Petraki***

**E Theodoros Leonidas Saitis*****Athanasia Giannomitros*****1 Konstantinos "Kostas" Seitis*****Vasiliki "Vasso" Loungi*****a Theodoros Seitis****b Dimitrios Seitis****2 Panagiota Seitis*****Nikolas Pagonis*****a Violetta Pagonis****b George Pagonis****3 Zoe Seitis*****Aristides Karagiorgos*****a Athanasia Karagiorgos****b Konstantina Karagiorgos****4 Leonidas "Louie" Seitis*****Evangelia Ammantedes*****a Theodoros Seitis****b Athanasia Seitis*****Petros Karyianiotis*****i George Karyianiotis****ii Leonidas Karyianiotis****F Konstantinos Leonidas Saitis****(1913-1940)*****Zoe Unknown*****1 Unknown Saitis**

## **Ythemios Georgios Saitis and his Descendants**

- Patriarch **Ythemios Georgios Saitis** was born in Krokylio. His birth certificate indicates he was born to **Georgios Seiti** in 1867. Ythemios left home when his daughter, **Eleni**, was only five years old. He sailed from Le Havre on September 22, 1906 with \$20 in his pocket and a ticket to New York City destined for the home of his friend in Chicago, Illinois. As far as we have documented, he was the second family member to arrive after Alessandro Saitis.

- The oldest son of Ythemios Georgios Saitis, **Georgios 'George' Efthemios Saites** (20 Jul 1893 – 21 May 1976) married **Sophia G. Kapella** (18 Jun 1897 – 3 Mar 1969) in San Francisco on 16 August 1952. George and Sophia had no children. One of his earliest occupations was working on the Oregon Short Line Railroad. George moved to Saginaw, Michigan in the 1920s, where he worked in restaurants with his brother, William, and cousins. During World War II, he moved to South Bend, Indiana where he obtained work at the City Barbeque owned by Gust Nitsos. After the war, George moved to California where he met and married his wife Sophia. During his years in California, he worked in the restaurant business.



*Photo: Ythemios, wife Sophia Giannakopoulos and daughter Eleni.*

- **Vasilios 'William' Efthemios Saites** (26 Jan 1896 – 30 Aug 1977) was listed as 16 years of age when he went aboard the S.S. Patris at the port of Piraeus on August 13, 1910. On his arrival August 28, 1910, his destination was Pendleton, Oregon where he was to meet with his father Efthemios. According to records, this was his first trip to the United States (as a stow-away at age 12). He was forcibly returned to Greece and within a year, he is again listed as a passenger sailing from Piraeus on February 4, 1911. For a yet to be determined reason, the information on the passenger list was crossed out. His destination was again Oregon where he was to meet with his father.

The next available record indicates William sailed a third time from Piraeus on April 18, 1912. His destination was Pendleton, Oregon noting he would be meeting his father. We have discovered a California Railroad Employment Record, and the 1920 US Federal Census, that William was employed from 1918 through 1920 as a railroad laborer. The 1921 city directory for Portland, Oregon indicates William was living there but no occupation is indicated. Sometime between 1921 and 1923 William moved to Michigan.

William married his first wife, **Alice B. 'Allie' Ostrander** (28 Oct 1905 – 12 Dec 1937) on May 15, 1923 in Bay City Michigan. Over the next 14 years William and Alice had six children: Efthemios William 'Mike', Sophia William, Helen William 'Elaine', Stavros William 'Steve', George William, and Thomas William 'Tom'.

In 1923, William was working at a restaurant, Stavros and Saites, owned by his cousins John Leonidas Saites and James Stavros. William would later buy John's share of the restaurant in the 1920s.

*Incidental Note:* John Leonidas Saites referred to the son of Ythemios, William, (and his brothers and sisters) as second cousins. This may imply that Ythemios and Leonidas Georgios Saitis were first cousins.



*Brothers William & George, Saginaw, 1923*



*Efthemios, Sophia, Elaine, Steve, Saginaw*

Alice died of an undetermined illness in 1937. Unable to care for six small children on his own, while working full-time, William sent them to Athens where they were cared for by his sister Eleni whose husband Stavropoulos was away at war. Eleni enrolled the children in a private German school. With the Nazi occupation of Greece in April 1941. Grandfather Ythemios brought the children to the village for safety. During the occupation, the children remained with their grandparents in Krokyllo and were referred to as the Amerikanaki by the villagers.

The 1940 U.S. Federal Census finds William living in Alma, Michigan, at the Wright Hotel. At the time he was working as a restaurant employee. By 1941 he had moved to Denver, Colorado where he married **Genevieve Pearl Lewis** (1 Feb 1921–3 Jan 2000). Their marriage certificate indicates that at the time Williams' residence was in Detroit, Michigan and Genevieve was living in Osceola, Michigan. William and Genevieve had no children. They moved to South Bend, Indiana and in 1942 where he worked alongside his brother George in a restaurant owned by Gust Nitsos. A "situation wanted" ad was placed in the April 10, 1943, edition of the Los Angeles Times, by someone named Saites. The ad noted Saites was seeking work as a chef, steward, manager of a restaurant, club or hotel. William is the most likely to have placed this advertisement.

*Note:* Alice is buried under the Orthodox baptismal name Maria and in the adjoining grave is William's second wife, Genevieve in Alma, Mi.

- **Efthemios 'Mike' William Saites** (1924 – 1943) the oldest son of William and Alice was born in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Upon the death of his mother, he along with his five siblings moved to Greece, where they lived with their Aunt Eleni in Athens. In June of 1940, at the age of 16, Efthemios sailed home from Genoa, Italy, with the intention of meeting his father in Alma, Michigan. According to newspaper reports of the time, he was inducted into the U.S. Navy on July 4, 1942, in Valparaiso, Indiana.



*USS Savanna under attack*

Mike was 18 years old. On September 11, 1943, he was on board a light cruiser, the USS Savanna near Salerno, Italy when it was hit by a German radio-controlled glider bomb. A total of 197 men were lost during the attack including 19-year-old Seaman 2C Efthemios Saites, who was buried at sea.

- **Sophia William Saites** (1925–2014) and three of her siblings were living with their aunt Eleni, in Athens, Greece, when the Germans overran the country. They relocated with their aunt to the home of their grandparents in Krokyllo. For the rest of the war, with most of Greece under occupation, they were trapped in the village. Life was very difficult for the Saites children as

they struggled to survive in the mountainous village. There were times, as Nazi troops approached the village, the younger women were compelled to seek shelter from the danger. It was during those times that Sophia would lead them to a cave in the mountainside below the village. The cave was east of the village and well-hidden.

After the war ended, the children hoped to be reunited with their father. They sought help from the Red Cross and eventually with Red Cross assistance they obtained passage back to the United States. The kids sailed from Piraeus, Greece, on the SS Gripsholm. After 24 days at sea, they arrived in New York City on Oct. 9, 1945. They then took a train from New York City to Saginaw, Michigan only to find that their father was no longer there. Again, with the assistance of the Red Cross, their father was located in Los Angeles and they were sent by train to meet him. They found their way to their father's restaurant and told a waitress they were the children of William Saite. As it turned out the waitress was their father's new wife Genevieve. With no news from his children and Greece, he had assumed they didn't survive the war.



*Sophia, George, Elaine, & Steve  
Clifton's Coffee Shop, Los Angeles 1946*

Sophia married **David Richard Hahn** (1925 – 1976) and together they had three sons and two daughters: Michael David, Daniel David, Richard David, Mary Genevieve, and Christina Tanya.



*Sophia, in the space shuttle  
in the 1970s, during the  
design phase.*

Sophia's talent as a multi-linguist made her a valued member of Lockheed Martin. The Lockheed Martin Space System company was located in Sunnyvale, California. Sophia worked primarily in the missile and space programs. Her fluency in Greek, Italian, French, and German, was quite beneficial. Sophia's top-secret security clearance allowed her to work on numerous security sensitive programs including the Poseidon Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM); Project Gemini and Project Apollo space capsules; Trident Fleet Ballistic Missile Project; and the Space Shuttle Program. Over her 30 years of employment, she received numerous awards. She retired from Lockheed in 1989.

In her last few years, Sophia moved to the home of her son, Richard, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Her final years were spent in comfort, and in the joyful company of her son and his husband Robert. She passed peacefully on May 18, 2014.

**Danny Mortensen Remembers:** During the time he was stationed in San Jose in the early 70s as a FAA air traffic controller, Danny recalls the pleasure of occasionally visits to the Hahn family with his father, Ernie. Danny's mother, Katherine, grew up in Saginaw with Sophia in the twenties and thirties. In 1965 Danny attended the wedding of Michael Hahn, oldest son of Sophia, to Maria (Kouretas). Sophia had driven her family to Tempe, AZ for the wedding of Anna, Danny's sister, to Robert "Bob" Varin.

- **Helen 'Elaine' William Saites** (1926-2021), the youngest daughter, is the third child born to William and Alice. Elaine has many fascinating stories about her time in Greece, especially about the period during World War II when they were living in the village. As a child, she, along with other villagers, were employed as forced labor to widen the dirt road, allowing German tanks access. She had a discomfiting account of the Germans retaliatory executions - for every German killed by Greek guerillas, the Nazis would execute ten Greek civilians. At the end of the war, there was an attempt by Greek communists to take control. As she recalls, the actions of the communists were even more brutal than those of the German troops.



After returning to the United States and while living in Los Angeles, Elaine married **Alfred Benjamin Tully** (1925–2000). Elaine and Alfred had five daughters: Mary Katherine, Sandra Yvonne "Sandy", Corrine Elaine 'Corkey', Althea B 'Fifi', and Patricia and (1958-1958). She later married Jay Rogers. They had no children.

This is Elaine on her 90th birthday on Nov. 12, 2017. A surprise birthday party was held with over 100 friends and relatives in attendance!



*Steve, Sophia, George and Elaine*

• **Stavros 'Steve' William Saites** (1927 – 2007), the fourth child of Vasilios “William” Saites and his wife Alice. He was ten years old when his mother died and not long after the death of his mother Steve and his five siblings were sent to Athens to live with their father’s sister Eleni. The Nazis invaded Greece in April of 1941 and by October all of Greece was under occupation. Aunt Eleni took the four youngest siblings from Athens to live with her parent in the Krokyllo. Steve had already departed for the USA.

Steve and his first wife Helen G. Stavropoulos had one child a daughter Vasiliki Stavros “Vash. Steve married a second time to Nancy Palmer. They had two children Theaco Stavros “Ty” and Tephine Stavros.



*Sophia and Efthemios*



*George, Sophia and Steve in California shortly after their return to the States from Greece.*

- **George William Saites** (1930 – 2010) was the seven when his mother died. Not long after his mother's death George and his five siblings were sent to Greece. During his time in Greece WW II broke out and George, not yet a teenager, joined the Greek Resistance. George returned to the US at the end of the war to reunite with his father William.

George married four times. He and his first wife Mary Brewer and third wife Bonnie Thompson had no children. George and his second wife Paraskev "Voula" Rizos had two sons George William Saites Jr. and Euthemios George "Thimi" Saites. George married Marsha Christine Madsen in Washoe, Nevada, on June 25, 1994, when he was 64 years old. They remained happily married until his death in 2010.

**Danny Mortensen Remembers:** I would visit George Saites at his restaurant in Seaside, CA (1970-71) while stationed at Ft. Ord, just a few miles away. He was a very funny man and always happy to see me! He and his wife Voula divorced. She still lives in Salinas

- **Thomas William Saites** (1935 – 2014)

When Thomas William "Tom" Saites was born on April 9, 1935, in Saginaw, Michigan, his father, Vasilios, was 39 and his mother, Alice, was 29. He was only three years old when his mother died. After her death his father. Sent Thomas and his siblings to live with their aunt and grandparents in Athens. At the end of WW II Thomas returned to the States and was reunited with his father in Los Angeles California.



*William and his son Thomas*

Thomas married Patricia DiMatteo in 1960. They had five children: Marie Elaine (1960-2017), John Thomas, William Thomas, Gregory Thomas and Thomas William "Steve". Thomas died on October 13, 2014, in Medford, Oregon, at the age of 79.

## Lineage of Ythemios Georgios Saitis

- |     |   |                            |
|-----|---|----------------------------|
| I   | <b>Ythemios Georgios Saitis</b><br><i>Sophia Giannakopoulos</i>                 | (1867–1956)                |
| A   | <b>Georgios Efthemios "George" Saites</b><br><i>Sophia G. Kapella</i>           | (1893–1976)<br>(1897–1969) |
| B   | <b>Vasilios Efthemios "William" Saites</b><br><i>Alice B. "Allie" Ostrander</i> | (1896–1977)<br>(1905–1937) |
| 1   | <b>Efthemios William "Mike" Saites</b>  | (1924–1943)                |
| 2   | <b>Sophia William Saites</b><br><i>David Richard Hahn</i>                       | (1925–2014)<br>(1926–1976) |
| a   | <b>Michael David Hahn</b><br><i>Maria Kouretas</i>                              |                            |
| i   | <b>Nicoletto Hahn</b>   |                            |
| ii  | <b>Constantino Michael Hahn</b>   |                            |
| b   | <b>Daniel David Hahn</b><br><i>Connie G. Katsaros</i>                           |                            |
| i   | <b>Dimitri Daniel Katsaros</b>  |                            |
| ii  | <b>Zachariah Daniel Hahn</b>  |                            |
| iii | <b>Danielle Anastasia Hahn</b>  |                            |
|     | <i>Lisa Fuller</i>  |                            |
| i   | <b>Megan Marie Hahn</b>   |                            |
| ii  | <b>Matthew Hahn</b>   |                            |
| iii | <b>Stephanie Hahn</b>   |                            |
| iv  | <b>Issac Hahn</b>   |                            |
| c   | <b>Richard David Hahn</b><br><i>Cathy Maria Bell</i>                            | (1953-2017)                |
| i   | <b>Christopher Richard Hahn</b>   |                            |
| ii  | <b>Kimberly Marie Hahn</b>  |                            |
|     | <i>Robert Hopper</i>  |                            |
| d   | <b>Mary Genevieve Hahn</b><br><i>Don Hopper</i>                                 |                            |
| i   | <b>Jamie Hopper</b>   |                            |
| ii  | <b>Jody Hopper</b>  |                            |
| e   | <b>Christina Tanya "Tina" Hahn</b><br><i>Owen Sousa</i>                         |                            |

- i Rebecca Anastasia Sousa
  - Troy Wisberg**
  - i Alexandria Marie Wisberg
  - ii Christian Wisberg
- 3 Helen William "Elaine" Saïtes
  - Alfred Benjamin Tully** (1925–2000)
    - a Mary Katherine "Kathy" Tully
      - Unknown Parker**
      - i Jamie Marie Parker
      - ii Leanne Parker
      - Unknown White**
    - b Sandra Yvonne "Sandy" Tully (1950-2019)
      - LeRoy "Red" Sanders**
      - i Julie Lise Sanders
      - ii Candace Lee Sanders
    - c Corrine Elaine "Corkey" Tully
      - Kenneth Wennergren**
      - i Scott Wennergren
      - ii Susan Wennergren
      - Brian Balcom**
      - i Vaughn Balcom
      - ii Elaine "Lainey" Balcom
    - d Althea Beatrice "Fifi" Tully
      - Ralph Gonzales**
      - i Reed Trevis Gonzales
      - Perry Heath**
      - i Yvette Marie Heath
      - ii Eileen Kathryn Heath
      - Thomas Patrick Lawlor "Tom"**
    - e Patricia Ann Tully (1958–1958)
  - 4 Stavros William "Steve" Saïtes (1927–2007)
    - Helen G. Stavropoulos**
    - a Vasiliki Stavros "Vash" Saïtes
      - Joe E Garcia**
      - i Odelia Nicole Garcia
      - Vasilios Michael Alexiou**
      - Richard Giles Hedgepeth** (1963-2014)

**Nancy J Palmer**

(1944-2003)

a **Theaco Stavros "Ty" Saïtes**

**Mandi Scott**

i **Kayden Howard**

ii **Khloe Jean Saïtes**

iii **Karis Christine Saïtes**

iv **Kylie Sue Saïtes**

b **Tephine Stavros Saïtes**

**Unknown Spouse**

i **Anastasia Victoria Saïtes**

ii **Reine Marie Saïtes**

5 **George William Saïtes**

(1930-2010)

**Mary Brewer**

**Paraskev G. Rizos**

a **George William Saïtes Jr.**

**Unknown Driscoll**

i **Rachelle Saïtes**

ii **Melissa Saïtes**

iii **Sara Saïtes**

b **Efthemios "Thimi" Saïtes**

**Bonnie Jean Thompson**

(1925-2004)

**Marsha Christine Madsen**

6 **Thomas William Saïtes**

**Patricia E. Di Matteo**

(1938-2017)

a **Maria Elaine Saïtes**

(1960-2017)

**Randy Lee Clark**

i **Zachary G Clark**

b **John Thomas Saïtes**

**Shelley Lynn Klever**

i **Jessica Louise Saïtes**

ii **Sara Helen Saïtes**

iii **Nicholas William Saïtes**

c **Gregory Thomas Saïtes**

**Jacqueline Michelle Durante**

- i **Kylie Marie Saites**
  - ii **Demetrus Alexander Saites**
- d **William Thomas Saites** (1963-1985)
- e **Thomas William "Steve" Saites**
  - Belinda Annette Brim*
  - i **Ashley Saites**
  - ii **Eric Saites**
- Genevieve Pearl Lewis* (1921-2000)
- C **Eleni Haralambros "Elaine" Saitis** (1900-1994)
  - Unknown Stavropoulos [died WW II]*
- D **Thomas Efthemios Saitis**
  - Paraskevi Unknown*
  - 1 **Efthemio Saitis**
  - 2 **Yorgo Saitis**
  - Unknown Spouse*
  - a **Thomas Saitis**
  - b **Achilles Saitis**
- E **Maria Saitis**
  - Unknown Kapella*
  - 1 **Koula Kapella**
  - 2 **Unknown Kapella**

### **The Kritsotaki Connection**

Sherry and Danny met sisters, Fani and Fotini Kritsotaki, in Athens for coffee. Both were born in Thunder Bay, Ontario with Saites backgrounds and a Krokilio connection. There is a large contingent of Saites families in Canada, and we hope to visit there at some point in the future in search of more family history.

## The Psetas Connection

The connection between the Saites and Psetas families is intertwined through the generations. The documented relationship is through marriage. Another connection, according to speculation, is that Psetas is a derivative of Saitis. A somewhat humorous bit of folklore provides us with various stories about the surname Psetas. One story relates that some 200 years ago two Saitis family patriarchs argued over the ownership of a goat. One was so angry about having to travel several days on foot to Amfissa to testify in court that he changed his name to Psetas. Another story tells of a man who had a habit of making the sound "psst", when trying to get someone's attention. Over time his habit of beckoning others with "psst, psst" resulted in others calling him Psetas. A third version of the story relates the pronunciation was simply the result of a speech defect!

Very little documentation has been uncovered, however the earliest records we discovered for the surname Psetas are within the Greek "General State Archives Digitization of Cultural Collections", specifically the Electoral lists of the Province of Doridos. There are 8 entries for Psetas in the village of Palaioikatouno. In addition, we located thirteen entries for Psetas in the village of Pentagioi. Pentagioi is approximately 9.5 km north of Krokylio, approximately a two-and-half-hour trip on foot. Today the most common spelling is Psetas. The electoral lists have five different versions of the name: Psefths, Pseuths, Psytas, Psyttas, and Psgttos. Three variations are found in one family.

The eldest man on the lists is

- **Dimitrios Pseuths** (about 1806 - Unk) son of **Apostolos**, was living in Pentagioí. Dimitrios had two sons: **Charalambous** (about 1846 - Unk) and **Spyros** (about 1849 - Unk).
- **Georgios Pseuths** of Pentagioí was likely no longer living at the time of the 1871 Voter Registry. He had two sons **Athanasios** (about 1845 - Unk) and **Apostolos** (about 1833 or 1844). There are two different possible birth years for Apostolos. It's highly doubtful that Georgios had two sons with the same name born 10 years apart and only one was registered in 1871 and the other in 1872. `

There were two others listed as residents of Pentagioí.

- **Anastasios** (about 1838 – Unk) son of **Ioannis Pseuths**
- **Ioannis** (about 1849 – Unk) son of **Anastasios Pseuths**.

During the period of the electoral lists five men were listed for the village of Palaioikatouno:

- **Athanasios** (not on the list) had two sons, **Spyros Psytas** or **Psgttos** (about 1837 – Unk) and **Vasileios Psyttas** (1846 – Unk).
- **Panayiotis** (not on the list) had three sons. **Theodore Psefths** (1846 – Unk) was the eldest son. The second son was **Georgios Psesths** (about 1847 or 1850 – Unk). Panayiotis third son on the list is **Nicolaos Psefths** (about 1850 – Unk).

### **Vasilios Psetas and his Descendants**

- **Vasilios Kostantinos Psetas** (about 1879 - 1954) and his wife **Efthemia "Effie" Zaharolpoulos**. Vasilios was born in the village of Koupáki. Efthemia and Vasilios Psetas had 11 children. They had four sons: Lambros "Louis" (1890-1959), Panayiotis "Pete" (1901-?), Christos "Chris" (1903-1988), and Georgios "George", and seven daughters: **Stavroula, Kaliopi, Eleni "Helen", Efrosini, Konstadina**, (1897-1989) **Vasaliki "Bessie", and Areti**. We know very little about all but four of their children.
- **Lambros Vasilios "Louis" Psetas** (1890–1959) was married to **Antigone "Anna" Kountouris** (1897–1989). No records were found for their marriage, but a passenger list indicates that in 1931, they were married at the time. Lambros and Antigone had one daughter **Effie**. According to his obituary, Lambros immigrated to America in 1907. It appears he returned to Greece for a period of time and returned to Massachusetts in 1915, residing in Springfield, Massachusetts, where he worked as an apprentice boiler-maker. In 1926, he was living in Saginaw, Michigan where he applied for U. S. citizenship. It appears that after moving to Michigan he worked several positions in the restaurant business.
- **Christos Vasilios "Chris B" Psetas** (1903 – 1988) arrived in Windsor, Ontario in 1930. He married **Erida Psetas** in 1932 and divorced in 1933. Records show a second arrival from Greece in 1937 or 1938 for Saginaw, Michigan. He married his second wife **Ruth L. Doyle** (1915 – 1998) in Lucas, Ohio in 1938. They had four children, three sons and a daughter. **William Chris Psetas** (1939 – 1995) was the first-born son. Their **daughter** was born a year after their marriage in 1939. Sadly, she died at birth. It was seven more years before they had a second son **Chris Chris Psetas**, and several more years before the birth of their fourth child, a son, **George Chris Psetas**. The father of Chris and Louis Psetas and Leonidas Georgios Saitis, were first cousins.

**Danny Mortensen Remembers:** We kids called Chris "Uncle Chris". He would chase us around the High Life kitchen with a live lobster. I remember sitting at the bar and being served a Shirley Temple; a Seven-Up with a cherry! Chris employed one of the Ukrainian Chalenko brothers as a barkeeper and John Chalenko was a cook. The High Life Inn was a five-star restaurant in Saginaw with banquet seating for 300 people!

The first Eastern Orthodox Church in Saginaw was composed of Greeks, Russians, and Ukrainians, who worshipped together.

On Danny's first visit to Greece at age 19 in 1965, he discovered that his Uncle Chris Psetas and Chris's youngest son, George were also there and staying at the home of Dr. George Psetas. Chris's son George was several years younger than Danny. They spent time in together Athens visiting all the historic sites.

*George Chris Psetas*



***Danny Mortensen Remembers:*** John Leonidas Saïtes frequently referred to **Chris Psetas**, owner the High Life Inn in Saginaw, and Chris's brother, Dr. **George Psetas** in Athens, as second cousins but as children, we kids never thought to ask exactly how we were related. While speaking with Bill Saïtes in Nafpaktos, he mentioned that my great-great-grandfather, Georgios Seiti married Evanthia Psetas in Koupaki about 1860. That explains the Psetas connection!



*Chris Psetas*

It was during this visit the Mortensen children, Danny, Susie, and John, while visiting Dr. Psetas in Athens for lunch in June, 1969 were informed that our grandfather, John L. Saïtes had fallen asleep in the arms of the Lord.

#### • **Helen (Psetas) Rotas**

Helen married Bill Rotas. They lived in Sacramento and had three children: George, Efrosini "Effie", and Nick.

*Helen and her daughter Effie*



### The Stoumbos / Gravanis Connection

In 2016, Danny interviewed **Costas Gravanis** in Athens, past president of Sterea Hellas US and Canada (Roumeliotan Associations), and the Archdiocese Council of NS America. His parents, **George Gravanis** and **Panagiota Stoumbos** were from Krokyllo and were related to the Saïtes families. Costa was able to identify some of the people in the 1933 baptism photo at the Greek Orthodox Church in Flint. There was no church in Saginaw some 30 miles north until 1937. The writing is in the hand of Danny's mother, Katherine Saïtes. *Standing left to right in the back: John Leonidas Saïtes (father of Katherine), Mrs. Pappas, Jim (unknow last name), the priest by the name of Psetas, Katherine's aunt Mary Chalenko, and Antigone Psetas on the far right. In the forefront, Katherine Saïtes (age 10?), Efimia, "the groom" from Chicago who is holding baby Tommy.*



### **Konstantinos Saitis of Krokylio**

**Konstantinos Saitis** and his wife **Tassaliki** raised four sons and a daughter in the villages of Palaiokatouno and Krokylio.

Their eldest son **Charalampos Konstantinos "Harry" Saites** (1890-1972) and his wife **"Vicky"** had two sons **Konstantinos "Gus"** and **Lambros Lewis "Louie"**. Konstantinos and his wife **Polixeni "Polly" Kolokythas** have two daughters **Vicky** and **Patricia**. Lambros and his wife **Kiki** have two children **Irene** and **Harry**.

It seems second son **Gust 'Gus' Konstantinos Saitis** (1898-Unk) may not have married.

**Peter Konstantine** (Abt. 1905-Unk), arrived in New York on June 25, 1936 and ultimately settled in Fort William, Ontario, Canada. He brought his wife **Sofia Xanalatos** and their two sons **Constantine Peter "Gus"** (1930-1991) and **George Peter** (1937-2006) to Canada. Later both Constantine and George immigrated to the US living in Wisconsin. Constantine was a widow with no children when he became a US citizen. George married **Betty Kitonis** and they had four sons **Peter George** (1975-2020), **Christopher George**, **Constantine George "Dean"** and **Demetrios George**.

In the early 1950's youngest son **Dimitrios Konstantinou "James K."** (1914-1991) married **Heide Roupas Williams** (1916-2009) a widow with two children **James Anthony "Jimmy" Williams** and **Mattie Jean "Mary Jane" Williams**.

Daughter **Maria Saites** married **Zachary Stoumbos**. They had five children: **Harry Stoumbos** (1921-1979) who lived in the Detroit area; **Gus Stoumbos** lives in Saginaw, Michigan; **Louis Stoumbos** lives in Orlando, **Anna Stoumbos Demopoulos** from Charlotte, NC, and **Panagiota Stoumbos** married **George Gravanis** and they lived in Krokylio where they raised their son **Costas**.

In 2016, Danny interviewed Costas Gravanis in Athens, past president of Sterea Hellas US and Canada (Roumeliotan Associations), and the Archdiocese Council of NS America.

### Saitis Family of South America

- **Jose Saitis** emigrated from Krokylio to Bolivia along with his wife **Panayu Josephina Panagiotopoulou** and son Charalampos. Jose's grandson Jorge has the marriage certificate of Jose's son Charalampos which lists Charalampos' parents as we have noted. We are uncertain about the name given at birth to Jose. Iosif or Iossif is the Greek variant of Joseph and there is no record to prove or disprove his name before emigrating. Jose and Panayu had two children, son Charalampos and a daughter Maria. It seems that Maria remained in Greece and her children reside Athens.
- **Geraldo/ Jaralamos / Charalampos Saitis** was born in Krokylio in 1905 and died in Cochabamba, Bolivia in 1950. Following tradition his grandfather was probably named Charalampos. After moving to Bolivia with his parents Geraldo married **Georgina Triantafilo** and they had five children – **Demetrio** (3 Apr 1945 – 21 Jan 2022), Demetrio's twin brother **Juan Triantafilo Saitis** (3 Apr 1945 – 4 Apr 2012), **Jorge Triantafilo Saitis**, **Maria Eugenia Triantafilo Saitis**, and **Panayota Gerontis**.

Demetrio Saitis attended our family reunions with his wife **Paula (Wander) Saitis**, and their son **Harrison**. He will be deeply missed



*Demetrio*



*Paula, Demetrio and Harrison Saitis*



*Demetrio*

## Chapter Five

### MEMORIES AND REUNIONS

#### Personal Memories of Danny Mortensen

In 2015, I reconnected with Vasilios "Bill" Saites near the beautiful little seaside town of Nafpaktos. I hadn't seen him since Danny's Grill in the 1950s. His son, George (my second cousin) accompanied me to the villages for several days seeking information on the family.

Returning in 2016 with second cousin, Sherry, we took Betty, the daughter of Bill Saites, with us to the village to help with our family research as Sherry and I do not speak Greek. She is a professional dancer and attracted a lot of attention because of her beauty. We actually got a better response to our questions because of Betty. Everybody wanted to talk to her!



*Irene and Bill Saites, Sherry Saites, Betty Saites*

It was the first trip to Greece for Sherry; my seventh. I have become a tour guide for everyone. Greece seems like home to me. In 2016, I visited for the first time during Easter (May 1). George and Loula Kufasimes from Sacramento, wonderful friends of our family since their immigration in the fifties, invited me to join them. Following the midnight church service, fireworks and gun shots are fired into the air throughout Greece. I also spent several days in the village with Kosta and his wife, Vasso Seitis and their two sons. Kosta is the son of Theodore, half-brother to my grandfather, John Leonidas Saites.

The mother of Loula and George Kufasimes, Angie Konandreas, was a second cousin to my grandfather and his brothers and sisters. Pauline Kolymparis Tasakos is third cousin to Loula and George. They live in Sacramento and have a beautiful house in Koupaki. They have been a great help with the history of the families and Koupaki!



*Loula Kufasimes*



*Kosta Seitis*



*George, Danny Mortensen, and George's sister Loula Kufasimes  
Easter in Koupaki 2016*

The opportunity to travel extensively since my retirement in 2010 from DHL Airways would not be possible without the help of Dan McMahon, a retired Delta Airlines captain, who gives me his buddy passes each year. This enables me to travel at a reduced rate on Delta on a "space available" basis. If first class has an open seat, I ride there. A first-class ticket from JFK to Athens is expensive and I only pay \$650 for the privilege!

I first visited the village in 1965. There was only one light bulb in the village square and only one telephone. The old bus dropped me off at the bottom of the mountain where the dirt road led up 6.5 miles to Krokyllo. It was a long walk and I passed several people walking down including an old woman in black (a widow) riding a donkey. It was very primitive and no indoor facilities

in the village. Today there is a 12 room hotel and restaurant in Krokylio; \$35/night for a single...and the food is wonderful! In the evenings, some of the men meet in the hotel lobby to play cards (rather loudly) while other villagers gather in the square to visit and eat. Froso Barbouris is the proprietor and a wonderful cook. Her son, Dimitriou, assists and speaks English.



*In 1965, there were seven tavernas in Krokylio, all within one block. Today, only one remains in addition to the new hotel.*

Living near Nafpaktos on the beach in Marathias is Pauline Kolymparis Tasakos. She and her husband, Bill, resided in Saginaw, then Flint, for a number of years and eventually moved to Sacramento where they operated a cafe on K Street. After retirement, they moved back to Marathias, Fokidos, Greece and two of her three children are still in the Sacramento area, son **Aristotelis "Telly"** and daughter **Dimitra "Jamie" Tasakos Durrell**, **Leonidas "Leo"**, the oldest, is living in Lolo, Montana.

### Saites Family Reunions

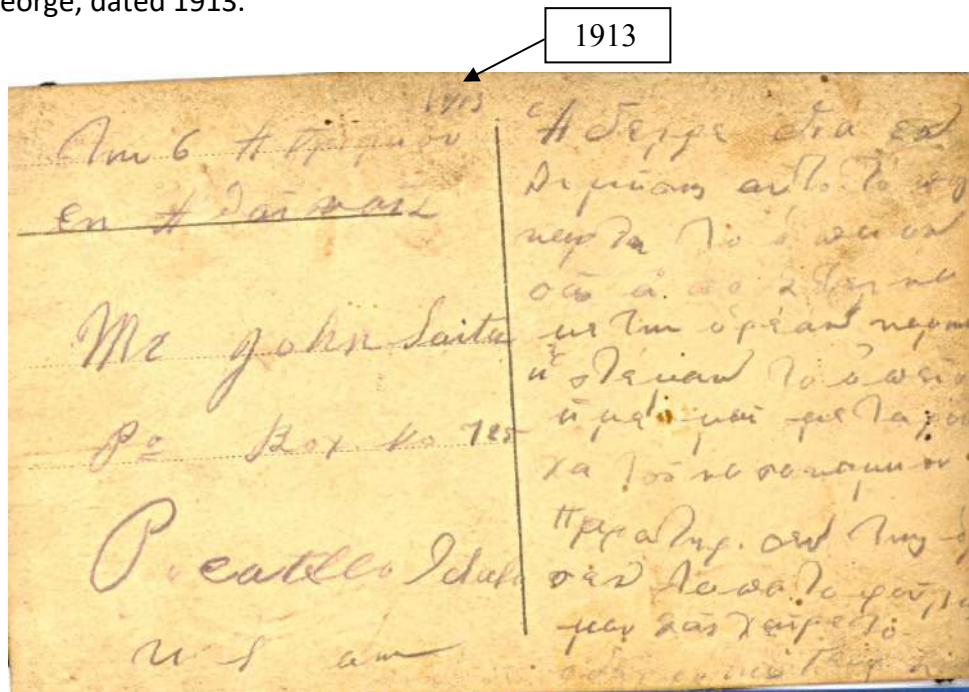
#### **2015**

The first Saites Family Reunion was held in Pocatello, Idaho on May 15-17, 2015. It happened purely by chance. Danny Mortensen was assisting Sherry Saites with genealogy research and wrote to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church Greek in Pocatello in 2014 asking about the founders of the church.

Father Constantine Zozos responded that there were four Saites men listed among the founders: George, Nick, Nonta, and Loukas. Father Constantine mentioned that the 100-year anniversary of the church was scheduled for 2015 and invited Danny to attend. Danny mentioned it to Sherry and she put it on her Facebook page. Several relatives mentioned that they would like to attend and we had 19 at the event! In addition to church services and the banquet (where we were recognized by Metropolitan Isiah of Denver), we visited the historical stone train depot built in 1915 which is in pristine condition just as it was when our grandfathers were working there. An engine, tender, box car, and caboose from the Oregon

Short Line is on display in a park in Pocatello. The impromptu reunion was so much fun that we agreed to do it again the next year.

Danny had a postcard addressed to his grandfather in Pocatello, John L. Saites, from his brother, George, dated 1913.



The 19 participants of the first reunion: Corkey (Tully) and Brian Balcom, Vicki (Saite) Culver, Rick Hahn, Althea "Fifi" (Tully) and Tom Lawler, Alexander Saite and Kyle Egbert, Mary (Hahn) and Don Hopper, Danny Mortensen, Elaine (Saite) Rodgers, Nick and Ally (Mills) Saite, Sherry Saite, Demetrio, Paula (Wander), and Harrison Saitis, and Christina "Tina" (Hahn) and Troy Wisberg.



*Photo previous page*

*Left to right: Fifi Lawson, Rick Hahn, Nick and Ally Saites, Corkey Balcom, Vicki Culver, Alexander Saites and Kyle Egbert, Sherry Saites, Demetrio and Harrison Saitis, Danny Mortensen, Tina Wisberg, Elaine Saites Rodgers, and Mary Hopper*

## 2016

The second reunion was held in Grand Blanc, Michigan on June 17-19, 2016, in conjunction with the annual church Panagyri with 25 relatives in attendance: Demetrio and Paula Saitis, Sherry Saites, Gloria Wilson, Nicki Wilson, Nick and Ally Saites, Alexander Saites, Kyle Egbert, Andy and Olga (Saites) and Vikki Tsekouras, William Nicholas "Bill" and Pamela (ValLance) Saites, Lambros "Louie" and Kiki Saites, Vicky Saites, Costa Saites, Gus and Polyxeni Saites, Eleni, Tephine and Ashley Saites, Loula Pagonis, and Danny Mortensen.



*Left to right: Sherry, Dimitrio, Nicki, Kyle, Ally, Andy, Vikki, Olga, Alex, Pamela & Bill*

There is a photo of the 1930 Flint, Michigan congregation at the annual Greek picnic hanging in the Grand Blanc church lobby. The priest said nobody knew who the people were in the photo. Danny was able to identify his mother, Katherine J. Saites, age 7; her parents John and Anna: and Louis Saites, age 7, whom they were raising for Nicolas Saites. The Grand Blanc church is the third church to be built in the Flint/Grand Blanc area. The congregation outgrew the first two churches. Danny and his sister Anna were baptized in the original church in 1946 and 1947.



*Photo by Sam Levas*

Sam Levas was a member of the congregation who retired to Tempe, Arizona and opened a cafe on Main Street. Danny's grandfather retired in 1959 and moved to Tempe with entire Mortensen family in 1959. He was reunited with his old friend, Sam.

## **2017**

The third reunion was held in San Jose, California on June 5-7, 2017, with 30 family members present at the annual church Panaguri: Thimi Saites, Michael and Maria (Kouretas) Hahn, Betty (Heindel) and Darrell Qualls, Alexander Saites, Kyle Egbert, Sherry Saites and Gloria Wilson, Vicki and Kim Culver, Nicki Wilson, Nick and Ally Saites, Corkey and Brian Balcom, Sandy Sanders, Dino Giannakopoulos, Althea "Fifi" Lawler, Vash Saites, Connie (Zacharopoulos) Brown, Harry Zacharopoulos, Tina and Troy Wisberg, Rachelle Saites and her fiancé, Marcus with his two children, and her son Zachary and daughter Sophia, and Danny Mortensen.

At the third reunion, we visited the South Bay Historical Railroad Society Museum / Depot where railroad car #84 circa 1912 belonging to the Oregon Short Line (OWR&N Co.) is on display in Santa Clara, California. There is also a company steam engine (#618) awaiting restoration at the Heber Valley Railroad Depot just northeast of Provo, Utah.



*Santa Clara, California*



*Engine #618*

## **2018**

The fourth reunion was scheduled for May 25-27, 2018 in Koupaki, Greece in conjunction with the annual 40 day service following Greek Easter at the Maraveli Chapel. Attending were Betty Saites, Sherry Saites, Michelle and Robert Rios, and Danny Mortensen. Schools were still in operation in the States which resulted in a low turn-out. Unfortunately, Danny became

seriously ill on Saturday night in Krokyllo and was rushed to Nafpaktos. He had contracted pneumonia and over the next several days began to recover in time to catch the flight home.

### **2019-2021**

The fifth reunion was scheduled for Reno, Nevada in 2019 with Althea and Tom Lawler hosting a barbeque at their home in Dayton near Carson City. Unfortunately, the passing of Sandy Sanders a few weeks before the event caused a cancellation. Althea and Sandy are the daughters of Elaine Saïtes Rodgers, the matriarch of the family.

In 2020, we scheduled a reunion in October for Tarpon Springs, FL to visit with George Psetas in neighboring Tampa. The COVID virus was now prevalent and we canceled. It was rescheduled for 2021 but COVID was still a problem. We decided on Oct 2022 but were shocked to learn that George, sadly had passed away due to COVID.



*George Psetas, wife Diana and their children Ruthie and Chris George*

## Visiting the Villages

Upon arrival at the Athens Airport, you can take the train into town (20 minutes) or the city bus (45 minutes). The train station is across the street from the airport terminal and the bus stop is directly outside baggage claim. Both are inexpensive but the bus is half the price. Keep a tight grip on your passport, bags, and money. Pickpockets are common. Another means of transportation are the taxi cabs which are more expensive.

Both the train and the bus go to Syntagma (Constitution) Square in the heart of the city. Parliament is located here along with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The changing of the guard takes place every hour on the hour and is a "must". It is only a 20 minute walk to the Acropolis and the new museum. I recommend the Pan Hotel which is a small family affair frequented by the Greeks and just one block from Syntagma. [www.panhotel.gr](http://www.panhotel.gr)



To get to the villages, you can take a modern bus to Nafpaktos for about 80 Euros one-way (about 3.5 hours) but will then have to rent a car to drive the 90 minutes up the mountain. (The Greeks can do it in an hour!) You can also rent a car about 5 blocks from the Pan Hotel for a week which is what I do. I prefer Six-T which is worldwide at [www.sixt.com](http://www.sixt.com). It is important that you obtain an international driver license from AAA. It is inexpensive. The car rental companies do not ask for it but the US Embassy recommends it, if involved in an accident.

The closest large city to our villages is Nafpaktos due south on the coast. Our favorite hotel there is the modern four star Nafs Hotel and inexpensive at about 65 Euros/night.



We are left with many mysteries and can only hope the answers are out there waiting discovery. For now, we can only wonder. Please submit any corrections, additions, or suggestions to us. We are looking for personal stories, histories, and photos from you to include in the manuscript!



Reunion co-chair organizers:

Sherry Saite, 6928 W. Decker Rd., Ludington, MI 49431. 231-233-2080

Danny Mortensen, 10901 Kimberly Dr., Union, KY 41091. 859-384-78721

## APPENDIX A

### Krokylío Voting Records of 1864-65 & 1872

GENERAL ARCHIVES OF THE STATE COLLECTION VLACHOGIANNI "elections" B. The Y N E Y T J K S. Electoral list of the municipality Krokyleiou Provincial Doris, year 1864/1865. (EXCERPT) Village Krokyleio (Palaiokatouno).	Approximate Birth Year
115) SAITIS Andreas Nicolaou, 25, farmer	1839
115) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Ανδρέας του Νικολάου, 25, γεωργός	1839
116) SAITIS George Nicholas, 30, farmer	1834
116) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Γεώργιος του Νικολάου, 30, γεωργός	1834
117) SAITIS Dimitrios Athanasiou, 80, georgoroimin	1784
117) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Δημήτριος του Αθανασίου, 80, γεωργοποιμὴν	1784
118) SAITIS Elias George, 22, farmer	1842
118) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Ηλίας του Γεωργίου, 22, γεωργός	1842
119) SAITIS Theodore George, 27, georgoroimin	1837
119) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Θεόδωρος του Γεωργίου, 27, γεωργοποιμὴν	1837
120) SAITIS Theodore John, 27, georgoroimin	1837
120) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Θεόδωρος του Ιωάννη, 27, γεωργοποιμὴν	1837
121) SAITIS John Demetrius, 43, georgoroimin	1821
121) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Ιωάννης του Δημητρίου, 43, γεωργοποιμὴν	1821
122) SAITIS Constans George, 33, georgoroimin	1831
122) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Κώστας του Γεωργίου, 33, γεωργοποιμὴν	1831
123) SAITIS Nicholas Theodore, 50, farmer	1814
123) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Νικόλαος του Θεοδώρου, 50, γεωργός	1814
124) SAITIS Spyros Georgiou, 23, georgoroimin	1814
124) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Σπύρος του Γεωργίου, 23, γεωργοποιμὴν	1841
125) SAITIS Harry George, 33, georgoroimin	1831
125) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Χαράλαμπος του Γεωργίου, 33, γεωργοποιμὴν	1831
176) LIAR Panayiotis Georgiou, 38, georgoroimin (Pseytes)	1826
176) ΨΕΥΤΗΣ Παναγιώτης του Γεωργίου, 38, γεωργοποιμὴν	1826
177) PSYTAS Nikolaos Athanasiou, 24, georgoroimin PSITAS or PSITAS	1840
177) ΨΥΤΑΣ Νικόλαος του Αθανασίου, 24, γεωργοποιμὴν ΨΗΤΑΣ ή ΨΙΤΑΣ	1840
178) PSYTAS Spyros Athanasios, 28, georgoroimin	1836
178) ΨΥΤΑΣ Σπύρος του Αθανασίου, 28, γεωργοποιμὴν	1836

Note : The catalog for Krokyleio, filled with names from the list of Municipality Krokyleiou, the year 1872. It is understood that not including the names already mentioned in the above list in the municipality Krokyleiou, the year 1864/1865.

128) SAITIS Athanasios John, 26, farmer	1846
128) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Αθανάσιος του Ιωάννη, 26, γεωργός	1846
129) SAITIS Athanasios Kon / nou, 23, student	1849
129) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Αθανάσιος του Κων/νου, 23, μαθητής	1849
130) SAITIS Athanasios Spiro, 22, student	1850
130) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Αθανάσιος του Σπύρου, 22, μαθητής	1850

131) SAITIS Andreas Georgiou, 26, farmer	1846
131) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Ανδρέας του Γεωργίου, 26, γεωργός	1846
132) SAITIS George Athanasiou, 26, farmer	1846
132) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Γεώργιος του Αθανασίου, 26, γεωργός	1846
133) SAITIS George Demetriou, 54, farmer	1818
133) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Γεώργιος του Δημητρίου, 54, γεωργός	1818
134) SAITIS George Charalambous, 23, student	1849
134) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Γεώργιος του Χαραλάμπους, 23, μαθητής	1849
135) SAITIS Dimitrios John, 24, farmer	1848
135) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Δημήτριος του Ιωάννη, 24, γεωργός	1848
136) SAITIS Efthimios George, 22, farmer	1850
136) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Ευθύμιος του Γεωργίου, 22, γεωργός	1850
137) SAITIS Kon / nos John, 22, student	1850
137) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Κων/νος του Ιωάννη, 22, μαθητής	1850
138) SAITIS Leonidas John, 22, student	1850
138) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Λεωνίδα του Ιωάννη, 22, μαθητής	1850
139) SAITIS Xenophon George, 23, student	1849
139) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Ξενοφών του Γεωργίου, 23, μαθητής	1849
140) SAITIS Spyros John, 35, farmer	1837
140) ΣΑΪΤΗΣ Σπύρος του Ιωάννη, 35, γεωργός	1837
200) LIAR George Panagiotis, 25, farmer (Pseytes)	1847
200) ΨΕΥΤΗΣ Γεώργιος του Παναγιώτη, 25, γεωργός	1847
201) LIAR Theodore Panagiotis, 26, farmer (Pseytes)	1846
201) ΨΕΥΤΗΣ Θεόδωρος του Παναγιώτη, 26, γεωργός	1846
202) LIAR Nikolaos Panagiotis, 22, student (Pseytes)	1850
202) ΨΕΥΤΗΣ Νικόλαος του Παναγιώτη, 22, μαθητής	1850
203) PSYTTAS Basil Athanasios, 26, farmer	1846
203) ΨΥΤΤΑΣ Βασίλειος του Αθανασίου, 26, γεωργός	1846

The 1871 Voting Record is 17 pages and can be found at the Greek Central Service Archives: GRGSA-CSA\_PCVLA.EKL.S01.F000010 Open File #010 -

## APPENDIX B

### The Secret Chili Recipes

#### *HOT DOG CHILI*

*Uncle John Saites*

*1 pound ground beef  
1 small onion, chopped  
2 pieces of garlic*

*1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1 tablespoon Chili Powder  
1 tablespoon paprika*

*Brown hamburger with onion and garlic. Add seasonings and Enough water to make a thin chili to spread on hot dogs. Use 1 tablespoon for each hot dog.*

#### *Chili Con Carne* *Uncle John Saites'*

*1 pound ground beef  
1 small onion, chopped  
2 pieces garlic  
1 can kidney beans*

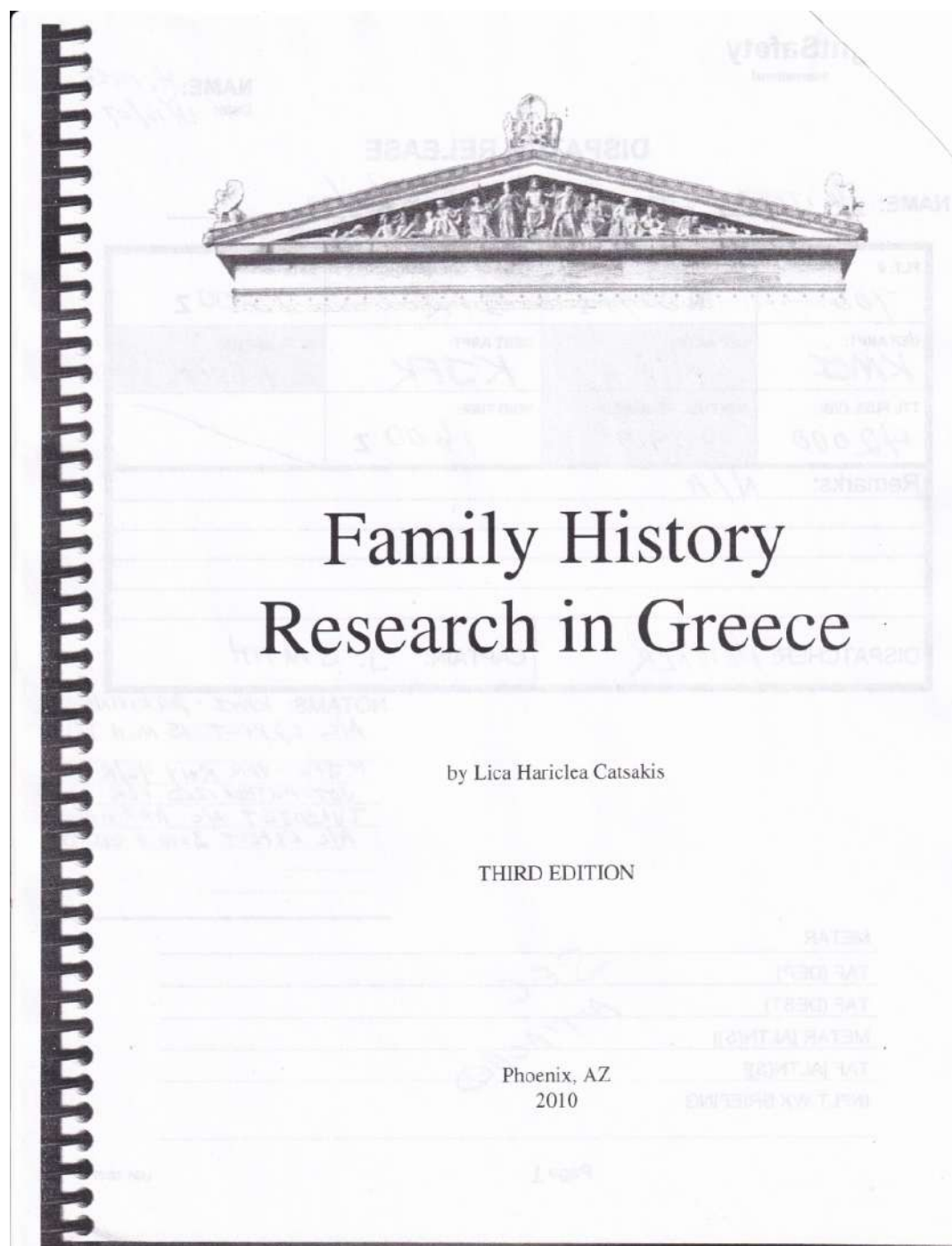
*1 tablespoon chili powder  
1 tablespoon paprika  
1 teaspoon cumin  
salt and pepper*

*To make larger batches, add 1 more, 2 more or 3 more of each thing.*

## APPENDIX C

### Notes, Resources, and References

- Note 1: "Family History Research in Greece" by Lica Catsakis, Third Edition 2010  
Now available on line at:  
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family History Research in Greece, 3rd edition](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Research_in_Greece,_3rd_edition) Table of Contents below.
- Note 2: Church records: Fokidos Diocese: Iera Metropolis Fokidos  
35100 Amfissa, Fokidos, Greece  
Tel. 2231-02287
- Note 3: Videos of Koupaki and Krokylio are available through an internet search, YouTube, and Facebook.
- Note 4: Vagelis Gravanis has published a collection of several years of his quarterly news publication: To Krokilio Mas. You may contact him at [krokilio.gr@gmail.com](mailto:krokilio.gr@gmail.com). The newspaper is available online.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	page
ACKNOWLEDGMENT .....	x
INTRODUCTION .....	xi
FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH.....	1
Chapter 1	
BEGINNING YOUR RESEARCH.....	2
A. Before you begin research you need to .....	2
1. Know the exact place of origin.....	2
2. Know the exact Greek name .....	2
3. Know the Dimos/Koinotis.....	2
4. Know basics about.....	2
a. Greek History .....	2
b. Greek Migration.....	2
c. Record Keeping in Greece .....	2
d. The Greek language .....	2
B. Write down the information you have.....	2
1. Using a computer software.....	3
2. Using printed forms.....	3
3. How to record the information .....	3
C. Writing Greek Names.....	3
Names of persons .....	4
Names of towns .....	4
D. Searching for information .....	4
Survey of Previous Research.....	5
1. Ask relatives.....	5
2. The Internet.....	5
3. The Family History Library .....	5
4. Is it <i>your</i> family? .....	6
E. Beginning Original Research .....	6
Research in the U.S.A. ....	6
Research in Pontus, Asia Minor, East Thrace, and other areas of Turkey .....	7
Research in Cyprus, Albania, and Hungary .....	7
Research in Europe, Africa, Australia, and South America etc. ....	7
Chapter 2	
SOURCES FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH	
Where to look for information and what to look for.....	9
1. Records .....	9
Record Keeping .....	9
Types of Records .....	10
a. Church Records.....	10
b. Civil Records .....	11
c. Military Records.....	13
How were records kept and what to expect .....	14
How to use the records.....	15
How to search records when you do not know Greek .....	16
Where can you find the records you need.....	17

2. Archives.....	18
3. Libraries.....	19
The Family History Library .....	19
Records Collection.....	20
Patron Resources.....	21
Personnel.....	21
Family History Centers .....	21
Education .....	21
Microfilms.....	22
Books .....	23
Maps.....	23
Family History Library Catalog.....	23
Other Libraries .....	24
4. The Internet .....	25
5. Books.....	25
6. Newspapers of Towns .....	26
7. Government Gazette .....	26
8. Relatives .....	27
Relationships.....	27
Interviewing Relatives .....	30
9. Photographs .....	30
10. Icons [pictures of saints].....	31
11. Organizations.....	31
Genealogical Societies .....	31
Greek Societies .....	31
Samples of records .....	32
Chapter 3	
GREEK HISTORY	
Greece - Hellas .....	45
History Map of Greece .....	52
Chapter 4	
MORE ABOUT GREECE	
The Land.....	55
Religion .....	55
Ethnic Groups.....	55
Turks .....	56
Slavs.....	56
Vlachs .....	56
Albanians .....	57
Armenians .....	57
Jews.....	57
Gypsies.....	58
Administrative Structure .....	58
Administrative Map of Greece .....	60
Regions: .....	61
Counties: .....	61
Capital Cities of Counties.....	62

Capital Cities of Districts .....	63
Chapter 5	
GREEK MIGRATION .....	67
Chapter 6	
LOCATING PLACES IN GREECE	
Names of Places .....	71
Gazetteers .....	71
Variations of Names of Places .....	75
Chapter 7	
CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS	
In Greece .....	77
Εκκλησία της Ελλάδος [Church of Greece] .....	77
Catholic Church .....	77
Baptist Church .....	78
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints .....	78
Evangelical Church .....	78
Jehovah Witnesses .....	78
Jewish Synagogues .....	78
Orthodox Churches in Other Countries .....	78
America - Archdiocese of America - Greek Orthodox Church .....	78
Cyprus - Church of Cyprus .....	78
Turkey - Ecumenical Patriarchate .....	79
Addresses of Dioceses, Archdioceses and Patriarchate .....	80
Chapter 8	
RESEARCH BY MAIL	
Letter Writing .....	93
Before You Write .....	93
Relatives .....	93
Greetings .....	94
Closings .....	94
Town Halls, GAK Archives, and Dioceses .....	95
Addresses .....	96
Cost .....	97
What to Expect .....	97
Sample Letter to a Relative .....	98
Introducing Yourself .....	98
Translation .....	98
Requesting Information .....	99
Translation .....	99
Instructions for Family Questionnaire .....	100
Instructions for Form Letters .....	100
Family Questionnaire .....	101
Form Letters .....	102
Letter to a Mayor	
Asking for a Birth record (English translation) .....	102

Form letter in Greek .....	103
Asking for a Death record (English translation) .....	104
Form letter in Greek .....	105
Asking for Family Structure (English translation) .....	106
Form letter in Greek .....	107
Letter to a Diocese	
Asking for a Marriage record (English translation) .....	108
Form letter in Greek .....	109
Letter to the General Archives of Greece (ΓΑΚ)	
Requesting Birth information (English translation) .....	110
Form letter in Greek .....	111
Requesting Marriage information (English translation) .....	112
Form letter in Greek .....	113
Requesting information about the family structure and death of an ancestor (English translation) .....	114
Form letter in Greek .....	115
Follow up letter (English translation) .....	116
Form letter in Greek .....	117
 Chapter 9	
LEARN ABOUT NAMES	
Given Names .....	119
Naming children .....	119
Given names indicating place of origin .....	120
Name changes in adulthood .....	120
Variations of given names .....	120
Middle Names .....	120
Surnames .....	121
History of Surnames .....	121
Surnames in Greece .....	122
How are Surnames Formed .....	123
Endings that indicate the place of origin .....	125
Grammar and Surnames .....	125
 Chapter 10	
THE LANGUAGE	
It's All Greek to Me .....	127
How to Work With the Language .....	127
The Alphabet .....	128
Diacritic Marks .....	128
About Transliteration .....	129
Transliteration Chart – The Simple Transliteration System .....	130
Pronunciation .....	131
Diphthongs .....	131
Digraphs .....	131
 The Handwriting .....	132
Grammar .....	132
Greek Genealogical Word List .....	133

Key Words .....	133
Words Indicating Relation .....	133
Words Indicating Birth .....	133
Words Indicating Status of Birth .....	133
Words Indicating Baptism .....	134
Words Indicating Marriage .....	134
Words Indicating Death .....	134
Colorful Expressions for death .....	134
Words Indicating Burial .....	134
Words Indicating Types of Records .....	134
General Words .....	135
Chapter 11	
NUMBERS AND UNITS OF TIME	
Numbers .....	139
Numbers in Numerical Order .....	139
Cardinal Numbers in Alphabetical Order .....	140
Ordinal Numbers in Alphabetical Order .....	140
Numbers in Alphabetic Form .....	141
Units of Time .....	141
Days of the Week .....	141
Months .....	141
Appendix A	
GLOSSARY	
Greek Words .....	143
English Words .....	145
Appendix B	
GREEK GIVEN NAMES, THEIR VARIATIONS, ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS AND NAME DAYS .....	
149	
ABOUT THE AUTHOR .....	
159	



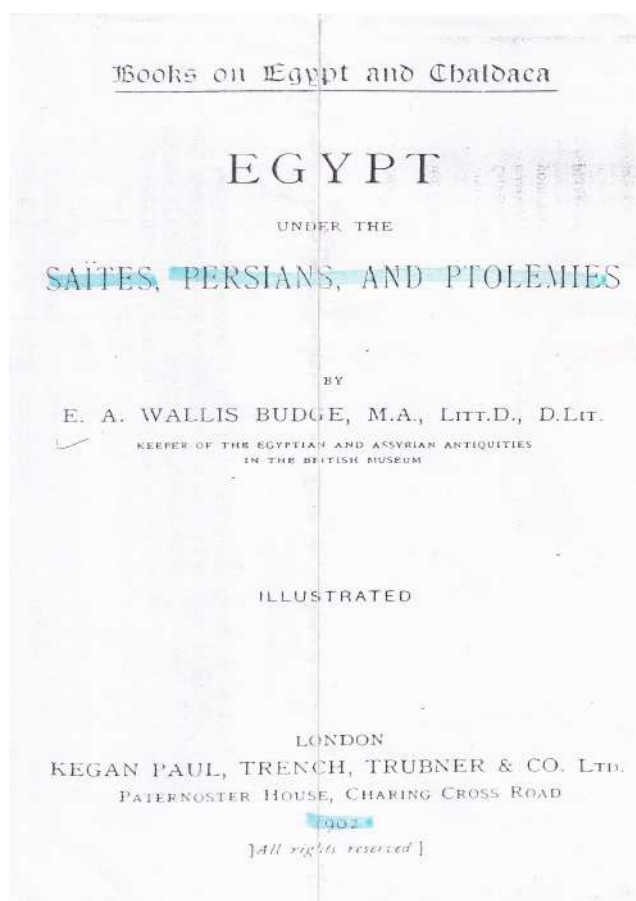
## APPENDIX D

### Sais (Saïtes) Pharaohs of Egypt

While researching the family name on the internet, we found this interesting bit of trivia. The Twenty-sixth Dynasty was the last native dynasty to rule before the Persian conquest in 525 BC. The reign lasted from 664 - 525 BC and is also called the Saite Period after the city of Sais, the capital. This marked the beginning of the Late Period in Egypt.

The Saite people originated to the west in Libya and their pharaohs used Greek mercenary troops of their army. Surprisingly, both Sherry and Danny have North African DNA in their 23andme.com ancestry reports. While we do not claim any connection, it is an interesting bit of trivia and humorous.

While we do not claim to have any connection, Both Sherry and Danny have North African DNA according to [www.23andme.co](http://www.23andme.co)



## APPENDIX E

### OPA! CELEBRATING POCATELLO'S GREEK HERITAGE

Sparrow R

Page 1

Sparrow R. Jones

Dr. Paul Link

HIST 571 Historical Geography of Idaho

December 10, 2009

#### Opa!: Celebrating Pocatello's Greek Heritage

##### 1. Introduction

Pocatello, Idaho, is a city built by the railroad and the railroad, in turn, is an industry built by the labor of immigrants. For a city of only a little more than 50,000 people, Pocatello has a rich blend of ethnic origins in her citizens -- African, Native, Latino, Western European, Japanese, Italian, Greek.

How did Pocatello come to have such a large Greek-American population? Why did these people leave Greece and why did they choose Pocatello as their destination? As it turns out, Pocatello's Greek population is a vibrant contributor to local history and culture and the individuals of Greek heritage who helped build this city did so by taking great risks and enduring great struggles with hopes of great rewards.

##### 2. Leaving Greece: Poverty Creates New Opportunities

The Great Wave of Greek emigration began as a trickle that took only ten years to become a flood. While the destinations of Greek emigrees were varied, the United States caught the interest and dreams of a large number of Greek citizens. From 1871-1880, 210 Greeks emigrated to America. Between 1880 and 1890, 2,308 more Greeks left for America. (Jones 34-35) From that point, the Great Wave became a great tidal wave of immigration with 3,000 to 5,000 Greek men coming to Pocatello alone. (Assumption 15)

Greek farmers were suffering under high taxes, natural disasters and market failures. On top of that, mandatory military service took young men away from their farms, leaving the rest of the family in hardship. The poverty was crushing and farmers had little chance to improve their lot in life. When Greeks began to hear stories in the late nineteenth century of the opportunity and wealth to be had in the New World, they viewed it as a way out of their difficult situation. (Jones 34-35) The social structure of Greek villages contributed to the need to emigrate as well.

Greek villages were patrilocal, that is to say the great patriarch of the family owned a very large

house and when sons would marry, they would bring their wives home to live in their father's house. Daughters would leave home to live with the family of their husband. Due to the customs of inheritance, family holdings were scattered throughout the village. Sending younger sons away to America to work solved two problems: that of raising money for the daughters' dowries and that of dividing the family holdings even further among the male descendants. Sons who left for America could send money home, typically intended for their sisters' dowries, and would not lay claim to a portion of the flocks and groves of the family patriarch. (Peck 126-7)

As the Great Wave intensified, the Greek government began to fear they were losing all their healthy, young, military-qualified men to emigration and so the newspapers began to publish discouraging letters and other documents describing the hardships of life in America in hopes that it would discourage more young men from leaving Greece. (Jones 37) But the stories of struggle did not dissuade Greek emigration and thousands of Greeks ended up in Pocatello, enticed by the many jobs created by the Oregon Short Line Railroad.

### 3. The Railroad in Pocatello: Transportation Built the City

The city of Pocatello was born with the arrival of the Oregon Short Line railroad and the subsequent reduction of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in 1882. (Link and Phoenix 117) (Assumption 15) In 1884, the reservation sold more land to the Utah and Northern Railroad. As part of the sales agreement, local Native Americans were allowed to ride the freight trains for free and the brakemen were required to stop the train wherever the Native Americans wanted to get off. This free ride agreement lasted for the next 24 years before the railroad cancelled that part of the bargain. (Assumption 15-16)

Because of the great features of the Pocatello location -- the convergence of the Oregon Short Line and the Utah and Northern Railroads, the ready availability of water, the good passages through the mountains, and the three rails to accommodate both standard and narrow gauge rails -- the shops in Eagle Rock and Shoshone moved to Pocatello. Because of this commercial gathering, Pocatello was known as having the best car shops between Omaha, Nebraska and the West Coast. (Assumption 16) The railroad made Pocatello possible and the railroad built Pocatello into the commercial center of southeastern Idaho.

### 4. Coming to America: The Greeks Arrive in Pocatello

The Greek pioneers -- called protopori or "forefathers" (Assumption 15) -- came to Pocatello to work the rails but stayed to build families, businesses, and a thriving community. At the turn of the century, most men who came to the American West from Greece to work were single men between the ages of 18 and 24. Less than 30% were married and most listed their father in Greece as their next-of-kin. (Peck 126) There were already some Greek workers in Pocatello by the late 1890s. (Assumption 15) Between 1880 and 1902, only 5% of Greek immigrants in America were female. (Jones 36) This lack of family structure, combined with racist attitudes commonly expressed by previous immigrants against the new waves of immigrants after 1880, made many Greeks feel isolated and alienated (Peck 133-4) Rather than give in to these negative feelings, the protopori dug in and worked hard to build a community of their own.

By 1910, there were many Greek-owned businesses in Pocatello. The 70th Anniversary commemorative programme from Blessed Assumption Greek Orthodox Church lists the following: "shoe repair shops, ice cream parlors, confectionaries, grocery stores, barber shops, bakeries, pastry shops, pool halls, cigar stores, kaffenias (coffee shops), fruit stands, soda fountains, restaurants, shoe shine shops, taxi cabs, sweet shops, boarding houses, and a dairy." (17) The census also listed Greek Pocatellans as carpenters, farmers, dry farmers, sheepmen, and cattlemen. (Assumption 17) Dry farming is a type of xeric agriculture, consisting of planting drought-resistant plants and using special tilling and mulching practices to keep the moisture in the soil from evaporating. Using these methods, dry farmers are able to grow crops in arid regions without artificial irrigation. (American Heritage)

But all was not rosy industry and cheerful capitalism for the earliest of the Greek immigrants. Racism and anti-immigrant sentiment often made it difficult for Greek immigrants to find good jobs. One Greek who came to Pocatello, George (Yoris Zismopoulos) Zeese, worked on the railroad gangs under the name "Nelson" because it was hard for men with Greek-sounding names to get good jobs at the time. Zeese was put in charge of a group of men from Crete who had just come to America and were still wearing the traditional vrakes instead of Western clothes. The Cretan workers didn't realize that Zeese was also Greek and so they delighted in hurling Cretan insults at their boss, assuming he couldn't understand them and enjoying the chance to get back at the racism they, too, were experiencing. Zeese, however, could understand every word they were saying.

It was also difficult for younger men to find work as the railroad refused to hire anyone under the age of twenty-one. When Jim (Mavroyannis) Morris brought his brother Gust to Pocatello in 1916, Gust was 16 years old and couldn't speak any English yet. The boys' uncle took Gust down to the railyard to get him a job. The official in charge of hiring asked how old Gust was and his uncle lied and said he was 18. The official turned Gust down because he was too young. "We can't hire anyone under 21," the official said. So his uncle took Gust to a section man who was sweeping and asked if there was a job for Gust. This time when the question of age came up, the uncle said Gust was 21 and so the sixteen-year-old lad got the job. (Assumption 25)

Later, between 1911 and 1918, the Balkan Wars broke out and many of the Greek men in Pocatello returned home to fight. Overlapping this event was World War I. When the United States entered the conflict in 1917, many Greek men from Pocatello wanted to show their love of their new homeland and went to fight on America's behalf. Because some of the young men had lied about their age so they could work for the railroad, they were not old enough to be drafted. Still, they answered the call to arms and joined the service anyway. For some of these men, the age discrepancy they had created in their youth followed them their entire life, causing little confusions and problems all along the way. (Assumption 17)

But perhaps the greatest difficulty of the protopori was the problem of exploitation and virtual slavery enforced by the padrones -- Greeks who had helped to bring their fellow countrymen to America only to manipulate them into economically devastating contracts that drained their income and controlled their lives.

##### 5. Exploitation: Caravelis and Other Padrones

Padrone is an Italian word that means "godfather." The Greek equivalent would be "koumbaria" but in the American West, the Italian word came to be used by all immigrants -- particularly Greeks, Mexicans, and Italians -- to describe an insidious sort of "businessman" whose job was to leech off the industry of hard-working immigrants by exploiting their ignorance, their lack of English, and their lack of social connections. (Peck 20)

community who helps their godchildren get good jobs and spouses. But the padrone in America evolved more from the role of Greek government officials who served in patron-client relationships, extracting agricultural surplus in exchange for administering public lands and granting villagers access to the workings of government. Still, the severely exploitative nature of the padrone's role in America was a new development, not a continuation of previously experienced power dynamics in the old country. (Peck 21)

Padrones travelled to the old country to recruit workers who they then ensnared in draconian contracts. This work was illegal as indentured servitude and other forms of contractual slavery had been outlawed shortly after the Civil War. But the padrones had clever ways of skirting the laws (Jones 42-43) including operating under several different names. (Peck 2, 93, 108) No matter how much the government investigated them, the padrones always managed to slip out of the lawmen's grasp. (Peck 58, 63, 90)

In addition to post-Civil War laws, the Foran Act of 1885 specifically restricted U.S. companies from importing workers into the United States from any other country under contract. (Peck 54) This was part of a growing body of legislation, beginning in the 1880s, designed to reduce the flow of immigrants due to the belief that immigrants threatened the jobs of existing American workers because immigrants were willing to work for lower wages. Under the Foran Act, immigrants could not be recruited in other countries for specific jobs but were allowed to come to the United States on speculation of the possibility of finding a job when they arrived. (St. James Encyclopedia)

The main Greek Padrone of the American West was Leon Skliris. Skliris exploited Greek workers by going to Greece to recruit them, helping them to secure passage to America, and finding them jobs for a \$20 fee -- once they arrived in America. (Peck 1) \$20 could represent an entire year's wages for a new worker at that time. (Jones 43) The labor contract also stipulated an ongoing fee of \$1 per month. Additionally, Skliris would create a type of "company town" where Greek immigrants were forced to shop at the overpriced Panhellenic Grocery Store, run by one of Skliris' relatives. Those who chose to shop elsewhere lost their jobs. Those who chose to leave town to find work somewhere else quickly discovered that, when it came to Greek workers, Skliris "owned" nearly all of Utah, Colorado, Nevada and Idaho. In most cases, no one could get a mining, railroad, or construction job in any of those states

without going through Skliris. (Peck 1)

Skliris has lost control of one section of Idaho, however. His childhood friend (Peck 33) and former partner, William Caravelis, controlled all Greek labor for the Oregon short Line company, running from Salt Lake City north through Idaho's central valley. (Peck 36) In retaliation for becoming his rival after the dissolution of their business partnership, Skliris encouraged workers to write letters about being ill-treated by bosses but only published those that spoke ill of Caravelis. These letters included such sentiments as declaring that Caravelis was a "creature not Greek, not even human" and "a tramp who sucks your sweat" because he charged high fees for jobs. (Peck 150)

From the beginning of the *protopori* era, chain migration had existed □ an immigrant sent money back home to fund another family member's emigration who then sent money home to fund yet another family member. But the *padrones* seized hold of the chain migration phenomenon and capitalized on it, reorganizing and strengthening them, in order to bring thousands of workers from Greece to the American West. Eventually, however, chain migrations were the undoing of the *padrones* because once a family was represented in sufficient numbers in America, those who had immigrated earlier were able to help newcomers with transatlantic passage and employment, (Peck 145) bypassing the exploitation of Caravelis, Skliris and their fellow *padrones* Skarlatos (who controlled Greek immigrants in Oregon and Washington), Cononelos (who controlled mining in Ely and McGill, Nevada), Meindaris (who ran Wyoming), (Peck 36) Gonzalez (who imported workers from Mexico) and Cordasco (who imported Italian workers). (Peck 146)

In 1912, Greek railroad workers in Pocatello attempted to sue William Caravelis for his exploitative job fees. Despite the anti-labor sentiments generated by the trial of Haywood, Moyer, and Pettibone, Idaho governor William McConnell was willing to stand behind the Greek railroad workers in their complaint. McConnell conducted a confidential investigation of Caravelis and collected signatures on "a number of affidavits by Greek workers" in order to document the exorbitant fees Caravelis charged to find jobs for Greek workers.

It was McConnell's intent to prosecute Caravelis for peonage, the crime of a creditor forcing free men to work as virtual slaves to pay off their high debt. However, at the last minute, Caravelis reminded Pocatello officials that they, too, were in his debt. As a result, the Bannock county attorney, William

Terrell, called the case "premature" and dismissed it before it could be heard. Additionally, Pocatello newspapers ran stories lauding Caravelis. The Pocatello Tribune said that Caravelis "stands high among the businessmen, officers, and officials of the railroad." (Peck 204)

The Greek padrones continued to practice their evil trade until the 1910s but gradually their influence died out as Greek workers learned of the exploitation and considered it an insult to their manhood. Also the rise of unions helped to edge the padrones out of power. (Peck 230) With control of their destiny returned to their own hands, the protopori turned their thoughts to building a stable Greek community in which to raise their families and enjoy a return to the sort of social life they had enjoyed in the old country.

#### 6. Building Community: The Importance of the Church to Greek Immigrants

The church was so important to the Greek community that building one was among the first tasks of a Greek community. People who were already financially strapped would give as much of their money as possible. The first two Greek Orthodox churches were in Chicago and New York in the early 1890s. Ten more churches were founded between 1907 and 1909. (Jones 47) The Greek Orthodox church in Pocatello was the first Orthodox church of any jurisdiction (Greek, Russian, Serbian, etc.) in the state of Idaho. (Namee) By the end of World War I, there were 130 Greek Orthodox Churches, (Jones 48) including the Pocatello parish, founded in 1915. (Assumption 19) These churches were trying to be part of the Orthodox Church in Greece but the church back home didn't understand the American churches' problems and needs so there wasn't even a Greek Orthodox bishop for America until 1918. (Jones 48) These problems didn't deter the Pocatello Greek community, however, from following their dream of having a parish of their own.

Before the church was built, the community had to raise money to finance it. Among other efforts, young Greek men put on plays in the Auditorium Company Limited which had opened in 1901 between first and second street in Pocatello. With a main floor and two balcony levels, the theater could seat 850 people and the house was packed for these fund-raising plays. Since there were still so few women in Pocatello, some of the men dressed as women to play the female roles. (Assumption 16) The Greek people wanted a church so badly that everyone donated an entire month's wages to the building fund. It was decided that whoever donated the most money would be the Godparent of the church and get to

## APPENDIX F

### THE GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1821 - 1829

Greek-Americans celebrate March 25 each year for the liberation of Greece from the Turks and the Ottoman Empire which ruled the country for over 400 years. When Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Empire in 1453, all the lands to the west as far as the edges of Austria and Hungary in Europe were eventually lost. Central (mainland) Greece was known to the Turks as New Rome (Roumeli) where our family is located.

The Ottoman Turks subjected Greece to crushing taxes and serfdom. The Greeks resisted in subtle ways with secret schools for the children. They poisoned the wine with pine sap which became known as "retsina" wine, an acquired taste to spite the Turks. Many moved farther into the mountains to reduce contact with the Turks (Krokylio and Koupaki).

When Bishop Germanos raised the standard to declare the revolution on March 25, 1821 at the Monastery of Agia Larva, who do you think joined him? Our forefathers! Grandpa John Leonidas Saites of Koupaki would tell me stories as a child of the heroes of the revolution. His first cousin, **Ioulia**, was married to **Ted Makriyannis**, a grandson of General Yannis Makriyannis born Ioannis Triantaphyllou (the equal of our General Henry Knox)! There is a statue in Krokylio of Yannis Makriyannis, who was born in the settlement of Avoriti in Krokylio. Greek patriots adopted the battle cry, "Freedom or Death" from the US revolution.



*Ted Makriyannis on right*

The Krokylio school-house is a one big open classroom and is exactly like it was when the school closed in the fifties. The desks are there. The books on the shelves are there. On the walls are pictures of the leaders who lead the fight for independence; people like Theodoros Kolokotronis who fought in the Peloponnese. They won because the people of the villages throughout Steria Ellas (Central Greece) answered the call to arms. Every family name in the Krokylio and Koupaki villages stepped forward. Many died.



In April of 1821, Athanasios Diakos was captured and roasted alive on a spit after the battle of Alamana. It was fought less than a mile from Thermopoloae where the 300 Spartans died defending the pass in 480 BC.

The Saites / Psetas families have a connection to Missolonghi some 30 miles to the west. It was besieged for over a year by the Turks and captured the second time. Women danced over the cliffs with their children to avoid capture when the city fell. Thousands of Greeks inside the city walls had starved to death or died of plague.

We had emigrated centuries earlier from Epirus near the Albanian border (due east of Corfu) on the mainland to avoid Turkish bloodshed and atrocities. Some of the Saites/Psetas families relocated to Lidoriki, Koupaki, Krokylio, Marathias, Nafaktos, and Amfissa along with others.

Sadly, over the years, the second, third, fourth generations of Greeks in the United States have lost their identity. People with a Greek name, when asked if they are Greek, reply, "No" but my grandparents or great grandparents were Greek. They were the ones who fought the Turks as farmers, laborers, fishermen, and shepherds. The Greeks did not have a standing Army but defeated the fiercest, most brutal troops in the world at that time. As Greek-Americans, we are slowly losing our culture and our history that our ancestors fought to maintain.

Many of our relatives fought and died bravely to create modern Greece just as Greek-Americans have done for the United States in its wars. Be proud of your heritage and research your family history. Don't melt totally into American society.

Danny Mortensen

## APPENDIX G – ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



*1965 - Home of Theodore Saitis, Koupaki*



*1965 - Home of Theodore Saitis, Koupaki*



*House of George Saitis, Koupaki*



*2014 - Kolymparis house, Koupaki*



*1965 - House of Theodore Saitis*



*2016 - House of Theodore Saitis*



*Vasilios "William" Saïtes Family standing  
L to R: Steve, Sophia, Efthemios, Elaine, George E,  
George W. Sitting: William E, & Tom*



*Lambrosina "Lambro", George,  
Effie & Dino Nikitaides*



*1926 - Anna & John Saïtes, Katherine is hiding  
below!*



*Nick & John Saïtes*



*1922 - Leonidas Saitis (L), Michael Chalenko (R),  
Olga Chalenko and Nick Saïtes on their wedding*



*1940 - John and Katherine Saïtes with  
Lambchops, Flint, Michigan*



*The Hahn Family*



*George, Voula, Athanasia and Efthemia Nikitaides*



*Signs at the foot of the mountain below Krokyllo*



*Mantha (Saitis) Kolymparis & daughter  
Pauline Tasakos, Marathias 2016*



*Danny, Betty, Bill, Sherry, Michelle Rios,  
& Irene in Nafpaktos in 2018*



*Helen Rotas, Effie Nikitaides and  
Eleni Crush*

*From Sandra Saites Sohail*

*This is a picture of my Paternal Grandparents.  
Their wedding in Approx. 1925 in Krokylio.*

***Nicholas Saites, Constadina (Kolebaris) Saites.***

*Nicholas was born and lived all his life in Krokylio.  
He had two brothers, **George Saites**, last lived in  
Patra Greece. And **Gus Saites**, who came to the  
US in Approx. 1912 Living in Michigan, & Oregon.  
I am told he had no children.*

*Constadina Kolebaris, was born in the village of  
Koupaki, moving to Krokylio after marriage. She  
had 8 brothers and sisters. **Helen Kolebaris  
Demopoulos** (Athens) **George Barris** (US), **Gus  
Barris** (US), **Aristotle Kolebaris**, **John Barris** (US),  
**Basil Kolebaris**, **Euthihia Kolebaris Nicopoulos**,  
**Persephoni Kolebaris Gialkedes**, and **Nicholas  
Gregory Barris** died 2005 Saginaw, Michigan.*



*Saites/Saitis 2nd Annual Reunion-Grand Blanc, Michigan-June 18, 2016 from l to r: Demetrio Saitis, Vikki Tsekouras, (daughter of Andy & Olga), Vicky Saites (daughter of Gus and Polyxeni) Olga Saites Tsekouras, Gus Saites, Paula Saitis, (daughter of Gus & Polyxeni), Polyxeni Saites*



*Saites/Saitis 2nd Annual Reunion-Grand Blanc, Michigan-June 18, 2016 at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church row 1: Nicholas & Ally Saites; row 2: Demetrio & Paula Saitis, Sherry Saites, Nicki Saites-Wilson; row 3: Kyle Egbert, Alexander Saites, Eleni Saites*



*Saites/Saitis 2nd Annual Reunion-Grand Blanc, Michigan-June 18, 2016: Danny Mortensen and Louie Saites*

### **Authors Request**

*As an example of the many complications faced in tracking our roots sorting and indexing the many men named George Saites/Saitis was complicated at best. For instance, there were two men by that name living in Saginaw in 1922. Without middle names or initials it's difficult to identify who's who. We have done our best. Should we get something wrong that the reader can clarify please let us know.*

*If the reader has any additions or corrects please let Danny or Sherry know.*

## INDEX

A		Christophilakis, Bessie (Demeopolos) 1	
Alexiou, Vasiliki Stavros "Vash" (Saites) 71, 74, 88 Vasilios Michael 74		Clark, Marie Elaine (Saites) 75 Randy Lee 75 Zachary G 75	
Alonso, Marie 63		Clinton, Linda Ann 61	
Amerikanaki 17, 67		Crush, Eleni 114	
Ammantedes,Evangelia 65		Culver, Allison Emma "Alli" 61 Kimberly Kate "Kim" 61, 88 Mark Roy 61 Victoria Sophia "Vicki" (Saites) 58, 61, 86, 88	
Angove, Charlene J 64			
Arizona, Tempe 33, 58, 70, 88			
Atamegoy, Soula 60			
B		D	
Baboos, Georgia 64		Davey, Margaret 41, 53, 61	
Bakarezos, Prof. Paraskevas 16		Derige, Diana 89	
Barris, George 115 Gus 32, 39, 115 John 115 Nicolas Gregory 115 see Kolebaris, Kolimparis, Kolymparis, Kolymparis		Demopoulos, Anna (Stoumbos) 81 Bessie 1 Helen (Kolebaris) 115	
Balcom, Brian 74, 86, 88 Corrine Elaine "Corkey" (Tully) 70, 74, 86, 88 Elaine "Lainey" 74 Vaughn 74		Di Matteo, Patricia 72, 75	
Bell, Cathy Maria 73		Dounis, Athanasia 59 Effie (Paia) 59 George 59 John 59 Katina (Saitis) 59	
Bessa, Irene 30, 60, 83, 114		Doyle, Ruth 78	
Brewer, Jenny Melissa "Missy" 61 Mary 72, 75		Driscoll, Unknown 75	
Brim, Belinda Annette 76		Durante, Jacqueline Michelle 75	
Brown, Connie (Zacharopoulos) 88		Durrell, Adrianna 64 David J. 64 Dimitra "Jamie" (Tasakos) 45, 64, 85 William 64	
C		E	
California Sacramento, CA 22, 33, 49, 79, 83, 85 San Jose 70, 88 Santa Clara 88		Egbert, Kyle 86, 87, 88, 116	
Canada Fort William, Ontario 81 Thunder Bay, Ontario 76 Toronto, Ontario 23 Windsor, Ontario 78		Evison, Angela Marie 64	
Carr, Norman Clifford Jr. 61		F	
Chalenko, Anna 25, 31, 32, 33, 40, 50, 60, 87, 113 John 78 Mary 80 Michael 50, 113 Olga 31, 32, 38, 39, 49, 60, 113 Orpha 39, 40, 49, 50, 51		Field, Nancy Elizabeth 62 Feighner, Anthony 63 Lisa Marie (Saylor) 63 Tristan Tyler 63 Zoe Kaelyn 63	
		Fuller, Lisa 73	
		G	
		Gialkedes, Persephoni (Kolebaris) 115	
		Galdina, Uliana 30, 60	
		Garcia Joe E. 74 Odelia Nicole 74	

**Garcia** Vasiliki Stavros "Vash" (Saites) 71, 74, 88

**Gerontis**, Panayota (Triantafilo Saites) 82

**Giannakopoulos** 4

Dino 88

Sophia 66, 73

**Giannomitros** 14, 21

Athanasia 34, 46, 47, 48, 65

**Giarmenitou**, Argiro 44, 45, 46, 64

**Gonzales**, Althea Beatrice "Fifi" (Tully) 70, 74, 86, 88

Ralph 74

Reed Trevis 74

**Gottheiner**, Leonora Johanna "Loni" 58, 61

**Goumas** 15, 21

**Goutrouklis**, Dimitrios 21

**Gravanis** 4

Costa 80, 81

George 80, 81

Panagiota (Stoumbos) 80, 81

Vagelis 95

**Gray**, Anna (Mortensen) 33, 46, 48, 70, 87

**Greece**

Amfissa 12, 16, 21, 95, 111

Athens 13, 16, 29, 35, 44, 45, 46, 48, 67, 68, 71, 76,  
79, 80, 82, 84, 89, 115

Greek Civil War 43, 44

Greek War of Independence 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 110

Koupaki 1, 5, 7, 11-18, 21, 22, 27-29, 31, 34, 35, 42,  
43, 46, 48, 79, 83, 84, 88, 95, 110, 112, 115

Koupaki, Church of St. George 16

Krokyllo 4, 5, 10, 11-13, 15-18, 21, 27, 28, 42, 66-68,  
71, 77, 80-82, 84, 88, 92, 95, 110, 111, 113

Krokyllo Church of St. George 13, 15, 16

Krokyllo Museum 12

Krokyllo School 12, 110

Lidoriki 7, 111

Marathias 44, 45, 85, 111, 114

Maraveli 14, 15, 16, 29, 34, 35, 42, 88

Maraveli, Holy Trinity Chapel 16

Megali Vrisi Fountain 12

Missolonghi 15, 18, 111

Mornos Dam 11

Nafpaktos 11, 30, 43, 44, 79, 83, 85, 88, 90, 111, 114

NAFS Hotel 90

Oracle of Delphi 14

Oropos 45

Pagrati 44, 46

Palaiokatouno 4, 10, 18, 21, 27, 77, 81

Pan Hotel 89, 90

Peloponnese 6, 7, 9, 15, 110

Pentagioi 77

Phocis (Focis) Region 11

Piraeus 29, 36, 66, 67, 69

Roumeli 4, 8, 9, 10, 110

Saitoura Stream 12

Syntagma (Constitution) Square 89

Thrace 5, 7, 8, 9

Voter Registry 4, 11, 27, 77, 92, 93

## H

**Hahn** 70, 114

Cathy Maria (Bell) 73

Christina Tanya "Tina" 69, 73, 86, 88

Christopher Richard 73

Connie G. (Katsaros) 73

Constantino Michael 73

Danielle Anastasia 73

Daniel David 69, 73

David Richard 69, 73

Issac 73

Kimberly Marie 73

Lisa (Fuller) 73

Maria (Kouretas) 70, 73, 88

Mary Genevieve 69, 86, 73

Matthew 73

Megan Marie 73

Michael David 1, 69, 70, 73, 88

Nicoletto 73

Richard David "Rick" 1, 69, 70, 73, 86

Sophia William (Saites) 68-71, 73, 113

Stephanie 73

Zachariah Daniel 73

**Heath**, Althea Beatrice "Fifi" (Tully) 70, 74, 86, 88

Eileen Kathryn 74

Perry 74

Yvette Marie 74

**Hedgepeth**, Richard Giles 74

Vasiliki Stavros "Vash" (Saites) 71, 74, 88

**Heindel**, Betty 88

**Hirakis**, Marie 40, 50, 61

**Hopper**, Don 73, 86

Jamie 73

**Hopper, Jody** 73  
 Mary Genevieve (Hahn) 69, 73, 86  
 Robert 73  
**Huber, Rosemary Alice** 56, 57, 58, 60

## I

**Idaho, Pocatello** 22-24, 31, 85, 86, 103  
**Indiana, South Bend** 66, 68  
**Ioannou, Anastasia** 64  
 Christo 64  
 Dimitra (Katsikas) 64  
 Stavros 64  
**Iowa, Davenport** 31, 32, 38, 39, 49

## J

**Jenkins, Ramona** 61

## K

**Kahl, Craig Patrick** 62  
 Douglas 62  
 Jacqueline Mae 41, 62  
 Sharie Ann (Pirochta) 62  
 Steven Christopher 62  
**Kalatzis, Afrodite-Efthemi** 63  
 Dimitrios 63  
 Polyxeni (Saitis) 42, 48, 49, 63  
 Themistocles 63  
**Kalidis, Christie Ann (Saites)** 61  
 George L 62  
**Kaligeris, Dimitrios** 63  
 Ioanna (Saitis) 42, 48, 49, 63  
 Nikolaos 63  
**Kapella, Koula** 76  
 Maria (Saitis) 76  
 Sophia G. 66, 73  
**Karagiorgos, Aristides** 47, 65  
 Athanasia 65  
 Konstantina 65  
 Zoi (Seitis) 46, 47, 65  
**Karyianiotis, Athanasia (Seitis)** 65  
 George 65  
 Leonidas 65  
 Petros 65  
**Katsaros, Connie G.** 73  
 Dimitri Daniel 73  
**Katsikas, Dimetrios** 41, 42, 63  
 Dimitroula (Saitis) 28, 41, 42, 63  
 Demetrius 42, 64

George 42, 64  
 Maria 64  
 Dimitra 64  
 Georgia (Baboos) 64

## Katsula 4

Giannoula 'Ioanna' 29

## Kayden, Howard 75

## Kitonis, Betty 81

## Klever, Shelly Lynn 75

## Koenis, Panagiota 42, 48, 63

## Koinis 15

## Kolebaris, Aristotle 115

Basil 115

Constadina 115

Euthihia 115

Helen 115

Persephoni 115

*see Barris, Kolimparis, Kolymbaris, Kolymparis*

## Kolezos 5

## Kolimparis 14

*see Barris, Kolebaris, Kolymbaris, Kolymparis*

## Kolokythas, Polyxeni "Polly" 81, 87

## Kolymbaris, Gus 32

*see Barris, Kolebaris, Kolimparis, Kolymparis*

## Kolymparis 49, 112

Andreas 45, 64

Argiro (Giarmenitou) 44, 45, 46, 64

Aristotelis 45, 64

Aristotelis 42, 44, 45, 49, 64

Elizabeth (Petraki) 45, 64

Evanthia "Mantha" (Saitis) 28, 41-46, 49, 64, 114

Gregory Aristotelis 1, 27, 42-47, 49, 64

Pepsa 49

Polyxeni "Pauline" 1, 27, 42-46, 49, 64, 83, 85, 114

*see Barris, Kolebaris, Kolimparis, Kolymbaris*

## Konandreas 4, 14, 15, 16, 28, 29, 48

Angie 49, 82

Athanasios 16

Dimitroula 28

Lukas 1, 14, 15, 17

Maria 28

Panos 16

Tasoula 28

Thanasios 49

Vasiliki 28

**Konandreas**, Zoitsa "Zoi" 15, 28, 34, 44, 60

**Kotrotsis** 4

Efthemios 28

Efthemios "Themios" 28, 34, 46

**Koufasimes** 14 *also see Kufasimes*

**Kountouris**, Antigone "Anna" 78

**Kouretas**, Maria 73

**Kourmousis** 5

**Koutvalas** 5

**Kritsotaki**, Fani 76

Fotini 76

**Kufasimes** *also see Koufasimes*

Angie (Konandreas) 49, 82

George 33, 49, 83, 84

Loula 1, 33, 49, 83, 84

**Kutrus**, Pete 33

## L

**Lacefield**, Glernda Cheryl "Cheryl" 48, 60

**Lachell**, Ashley 86

**Lagios**, Thomas 39

**Lapeoi** 5

**Lawlor**, Althea B "Fifi" (Tully) 70, 74, 86, 88

Thomas Patrick "Tom" 74, 86, 88

**Levas**, Sam 87, 88

**Lewis**, Genevieve Pearl 68, 69, 76

**Ligeros** 28

Tasoula (Konandreas) 28

**Loungi**, Vasiliki "Vasso" 47, 48, 65, 83

## M

**Machas** 21

**Madsen**, Marsha Christine 75

**Mahas**, Vasilios 28

Vasiliki (Konandreas) 28

**Mainassakis** 21

**Makriyannis**, Ioulia (unknown) 110

Ted 110

Yannis 13, 110

**Mantzalos** 5

**Mead**, Sharon Kaye 62

**Melagas** 5

**Michigan**

Alma 25, 68

Bay City 23, 39, 67

Detroit 25, 26, 68, 81

Flint 23, 25, 30, 32, 33, 56, 80, 85, 87, 113

Grand Blanc 87

Lansing 25, 32, 39, 40, 41, 49, 50, 53, 58

Pottersville 35

Saginaw, MI 23-25, 29, 31, 32, 38, 39, 45, 49, 66, 67, 69, 70, 72, 78-81, 85, 115

**Mills**, Alyce "Ally" 61, 86, 87, 88, 116

**Mirjanovic**, Zagorka Anna 64

**Montana**, Lolo 85

**Mortensen**, Anna 33, 46, 48, 60, 70, 87

Glernda Cheryl "Cheryl" (Lacefield) 48, 60

Daniel Ernest "Danny" 1, 7, 11, 16, 25, 27, 30, 33, 45, 46, 47, 48, 58, 60, 70, 72, 76, 78, 79, 80, 81, 83-88, 91, 102, 111, 114, 116

Ernest "Ernie" 33, 60, 70

John Theodore 33, 48, 60

Katherine J "Katy" (Saites) 32, 33, 50, 58, 60, 70, 80, 87, 113

Litsa Ann 46, 48, 60

Marion Sue "Susie" 33, 48, 60, 79

Ty Austin 60

**Mpezaitis** 21

**Mpolotas** 5

## N

**Nasiopoulos** 14, 21

Vasilios 31

**Nicopoulos**, Euthihia (Kolebaris) 115

**Nicopoulos**, Euthihia (Kolebaris) 115

**Nikitaides**, Athanasia 59, 114

Dino 59, 113

Efthemia "Effie" 59, 114

George 59, 114

Lambrosina "Lambro" (Saitis) 59, 113

Savoula "Voula" 59, 114

**Nitsos** 15

Athanasia 29, 59

Gust 66, 68

Sam 22, 23

**Nitzos** 4

## O

**Okinawa** 56, 57

**Oregon**, Portland 19, 20, 30, 36, 37, 38, 67

**Ostrander**, Alice B "Allie" 67, 68, 70, 71, 72, 73

**Ottoman Empire** 8, 9, 14, 15, 21, 29, 110

## P

**Padrones** 19

**Pagonis** 4, 27

George 65

**Pagonis, Loula** 77

Nikolas 47, 65

Pangiota (Seitis) 46, 47, 65

Violetta 65

**Paia, Effie** 59**Palmer, Nancy** 71, 75**Paloukis** 21**Panagiotopoulou, Panayu Josephina** 82**Papaioannou** 21**Parker, Jamie Marie** 74

Leanne 74

Mary Katherine "Kathy" (Tully) 70, 74

**Peeler, James** 30, 59**Petraki, Elizabeth** 45, 64**Petroff, Nick** 40**Pirochta, Sharie Ann** 62**Poloitris** 21**Psefths** 77*also see Psetas, Pseuths, Psyttas, Psyttas, and Psgttos*

Georgios 78

Nikolaos 78

Panayiotis 78

Theodore 78

**Psetas** 4, 5, 77, 111*also see Psefths, Pseuths, Psyttas, Psyttas, and Psgttos*

Antigone 80

Antigone "Anna" (Kountouris) 78

Areti 78

Chris Chris 78

Chris George 89

Christos Vasilios "Chris B" 33, 78, 79

Diana (Derige) 89

Efrosini 78

Eftheimia "Effie" (Zaharolpoulos) 78

Eleni "Helen" 78

Erida (Unknown) 78

Evanthia "Mantha" 27, 79

George {Doctor} 79

George Chris 78, 79, 89

Helen 79, 114

Kaliopé 78

Konstadina 78

Lambros Vasilios "Louis" 78

Panayiotis "Pete" 78

Ruth (Doyle) 78

Ruthie 88

Stavroula 78

Vasaliki "Bessie" 78

Vasilios Konstantinos 27, 78

William Chris 78

**Pseuths** 77*also see Psefths, Psetas, Psyttas, Psyttas, and Psgttos*

Apostolos 77

Athanasios (DOB abt 1838) 77

Athanasios (DOB abt 1845) 77

Charalambous 77

Dimitrios 77

Georgios 77

Ioannis 77

Spyros 77

**Psgttos** 78*also see Psefths, Psetas, Pseuths, Psyttas, and Psyttas***Psyttas/Psyttas** 4, 77*also see Psefths, Psetas, Pseuths, Psyttas, and Psgttos*

Athanasios 78

Spyros 78

Vasileios 78

**Pung, Jacqueline Mae "Jackie" (Saites)** 41, 62

John 62

**Q****Qualls, Betty (Heindel)** 88

Darrell 88

**R****Raftis /Raptis** 4, 6**Ralston, Allan** 62

Jacqueline Mae "Jackie" (Saites) 41, 62

**Rematianos** 5**Restaurants**

Danny's Grill 25, 30, 33, 83

High Life Inn 78, 79

Hollister Coffee Shop 40, 41

Red Top Way Tavern 39, 40

**Rios, Michelle (Saites)** 62, 88, 114

Robert 62, 88

**Rizos, Paraskev "Voula"** 72, 75

**Rogers, Helen William 'Elaine' (Saites)** 17, 67, 69,  
70, 86, 88, 113

Jay 70

**Rotas, Bill** 79

Efrosini 79, 113

George 79

Helen (Psetas) 79, 114

Nick 79

**Roupas, Heidi (Saites)** 81

**Rouska, Athnasios** 63

Odysseus 63

Vivian (Unknown) 63

Zoe (Saitis) 42, 49, 63

## S

**Saita** 4

**Saites, Alexander James** 61, 86, 87, 88, 116

Alice B. "Allie" (Ostrander) 67, 68, 70,-73

Alyce "Ally" (Mills) 61, 86, 87, 88

Anastasia Victoria 75

Anna (Chalenko) 25, 31-33, 40, 50, 60, 87, 113

Ashley 76

Ashley (Lachell) 86

Belinda Annette (Brim) 76

Betty (Kitonis) 81

Beverly (Staif) 30, 59

Bill 22, 23

Bonnie Jean (Thompson) 72, 75

Carrie Lynn 62

Charalampos Konstantinos "Harry" 25, 81

Christie Ann 61

Christopher George "Chris" 81

Christopher John "Chris" 62

Constandina (Kolebaris) 115

Constantine George "Dean" 81

Konstantinos "Gus" 81, 87

Demetrios George 81

Demetrus Alexander 76

Dimitrios Konstantinou "James K" 24, 80, 81

Efthemios "Thimi" 75

Efthemios William "Mike" 67, 68, 71, 73, 113

Eleni (unknown) 116

Eric 76

Eric Nicholas 63

Euthemios "Thimi" 72, 88

Genevieve Pearl (Lewis) 68, 69, 76

George 24, 25

George 23, 84

George Peter 81

George Vasilios 1, 11, 30, 60, 83

George William 67, 69, 70, 71, 72, 75, 113

George William Jr. 72, 75

George 115

Georgios Efthemios "George" 66-68, 73

Gregory Thomas 72, 75

Gregory William 62

Gust "Gus" 24, 25, 81, 115

Harry 81

Heidi (Roupas) 81

Helen G (Stavropoulos) 71, 74

Helen William 'Elaine' 17, 67, 69, 70, 74, 86,  
88, 113

Holly Elizabeth 62

Irene 81

Irene (Bessa) 30, 60, 83, 114

Jacqueline Mae "Jackie" 41, 62

Jacqueline Michelle (Durante) 75

Jenny Melissa "Missy" (Brewer) 61

Jessica Helen 61

Jessica Louise 75

John Thomas 75

Julia (Santana) 62

Karis Christine 75

Khloe Jean 75

Kylie Marie 76

Kylie Sue 75

Ioannis Leonidas "John" 5, 16, 22-27, 29-33,  
38-40, 42, 50, 58, 60, 67, 79, 80, 83, 86,  
87, 110, 113

John Nicolas 41, 61

John Thomas 72, 76

Katherine J "Katy" 32, 33, 50, 58, 60, 70, 80,  
87, 113

Kiki (Unk) 81, 87

Constantine Peter "Gus" 81

Konstantinos "Gus" 81, 87

Lambros Lewis "Louie" 81, 87, 116

Leonora Johanna "Loni" (Gottenheiner) 58, 61

Linda Ann (Clinton) 61

Linda Zoe 41, 62

Lisa Marie 30, 59

**Saites, Louis Nicholas "Nick" 61**

Louis Nick 26, 32, 38, 39, 40, 49-58, 60, 87  
 Loukas 23, 85  
 Lynda Zoitcha 62  
 Mandi (Scott) 75  
 Margaret Elene (Davey) 41, 53, 61  
 Maria 81  
 Marie (Hirakis) 40, 50, 61  
 Marie Elaine 72, 75  
 Marsha Christine (Madsen) 75  
 Mary (Brewer) 72, 75  
 Mary Louise (Gilbee) 61  
 Melissa 75  
 Michael Henry "Mike" 57, 61  
 Michelle Kae 62, 88, 114  
 Nancy (Palmer) 71, 75  
 Nancy Elizabeth (Field) 62  
 Nanette 56, 57, 61  
 Nicholas 115  
 Nicholas Louis "Nick" 57, 61, 86, 87, 88, 116  
 Nicholas Louis Jr. "Nick" 41, 63  
 Nicholas William 75  
 Nick 23, 85  
 Nicolas Leonidas "Nick" 16, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34-42, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 58, 60, 87  
 Nicolette Louise "Nicki" 57, 61, 87, 88, 116  
 Nonta 23, 85  
 Olga (Chalenko) 31, 32, 38, 39, 49, 60, 113  
 Pamela "Pam" (Vallance) 62, 87  
 Paraskev "Voula" G. (Rizos) 72, 75  
 Patricia 81  
 Patricia (Di Matteo). 72, 75  
 Penny Lee (Smith) 63  
 Peter 24  
 Peter George 81  
 Peter Konstantine 81  
 Polyxeni "Polly" (Kolokythas) 81, 87  
 Rachelle 75, 88  
 Ramona (Jenkins) 61  
 Reine Marie 75  
 Rosemary Alice (Huber) 56, 57, 58, 60  
 Sandra 115  
 Sara 75  
 Sara Helen 75  
 Sarah Jane 63

Sharon Kaye (Mead) 62  
 Shelley Lynn (Klever) 75  
 Sherry Lee 1, 26, 34, 41, 45, 50, 57, 60, 76, 83, 85-88, 91, 102, 114, 116  
 Sofia (Xanalatos) 81  
 Sophia 87  
 Sophia G. (Kapella) 66, 73  
 Sophia William 68-71, 73, 113  
 Spyros 23  
 Stavros William "Steve" 67, 69, 70, 71, 74, 113  
 Tephine 87  
 Tephine Stavros 71, 75  
 Theodore 32, 60  
 Thomas William "Steve" 72, 76  
 Thomas William "Tom". 67, 72, 75, 113  
 Theaco Stavros "Ty" 71, 75  
 Uliana (Galdina) 30, 60  
 Unknown (Driscoll) 75  
 Vasiliki Stavros "Vash" 71, 74, 88  
 Vasiliki "Betty" 1, 30, 60, 83, 88, 114  
 Vasilios Efthemios "William" 24, 32, 33, 66-72, 73, 113  
 Vasilios Georgios "Bill" 29, 30, 59, 79, 83, 114  
 Vicky (Unknown) 81  
 Victoria Sophia "Vicki" 58, 86, 88  
 William Nicholas "Bill" 41, 62, 87  
 William Thomas 72, 76  
 Zachary 88

**Saitis 4, 11, 17, 29, 48, 77**

Achilles 76  
 Alessandre 21, 66  
 Athanasia (Giannomitros) 34, 46, 47, 48, 65  
 Athanasia (Nitsos) 29, 59  
 Athanasiou 11  
 Demetrio 82, 86, 87, 115, 116  
 Dimitrios Leonidas "Jim" 41, 42, 48, 49, 63  
 Dimitrios Athanasiou 11  
 Dimitroula 28, 41, 42, 63  
 Efthemio 76  
 Ekaterini (Stathopoulos) 15, 25, 27-29, 34, 59  
 Eleni Haralambros "Elaine" 66, 67, 68, 71, 76  
 Evanthia "Mantha" 28, 41-46, 49, 64, 114  
 George 60  
 Georgina Triantafilo 82  
 Georgios 15

- Saitis**, Georgios Leonidas "George Saites" 22, 23, 27, 29-31, 33, 36, 42, 59, 86, 112  
 Geraldo/ Jaralamos / Charalampos 82  
 Giannoula "Ioanna" (Katsula) 29, 59  
 Harrison 82, 86  
 Ioanna 42, 48, 49, 63  
 Ioannis Georgios "John" 29, 60  
 John 21  
 Jorge Triantafilo 82  
 Jose 82  
 Juan Triantafilo 82  
 Katina 59  
 Katrina 29, 59  
 Konstantine Leonidas 28, 29, 42, 48, 65  
 Lambrosina "Lambro" 59, 113  
 Lamprosina "Lampro" 29  
 Leonidas Georgios 5, 15-17, 26-29, 36-38, 42, 46, 59, 67, 78, 113  
 Leonidas Georgios 59  
 Loukas 21  
 Maria 76  
 Maria 81  
 Maria Eugenia Triantafilo 1, 82  
 Nikolaos 11  
 Panagiota (Koenis) 42, 48, 63  
 Panayota Gerontis 81  
 Panayu Josephina (Panagiotopoulou) 82  
 Paraskevi (Unknown) 76  
 Paula (Wander) 1, 82, 86, 87, 115, 116  
 Polyxeni 42, 48, 49, 63  
 Sophia (Giannakopoulos) 66, 73  
 Soula (Atamegoy) 60  
 Theodoros Leonidas "Theodore" 5, 16, 28, 34, 42, 46-49, 65, 83, 112  
 Thomas 76  
 Thomas Efthemios 76  
 Yorgo 76  
 Ythemios Georgios Saitis 5, 21, 27, 66, 67, 73  
 Zoe 42, 49, 63  
 Zoe (Unknown) 65  
 Zoitsa "Zoi" (Konandreas) 15, 28, 34, 44, 60
- Sanders**, Candace Lee 74  
 Julie Lise 74  
 LeRoy "Red" 74  
 Sandra Yvonne "Sandy" (Tully) 70, 74, 88
- Santana**, Julia 62
- Sarkentis** 5
- Saylor**, Dominic 62  
 James Scott 62  
 Lisa Marie 63  
 Lynda Zoitcha 62  
 Marie (Alonso) 62  
 Roger Francis 62  
 Tyler 63  
 Viola Marie (Stratton) 62
- Scott**, Mandi 75
- Seiti**, Georgios 17, 27, 59, 79  
 Evanthia "Mantha" (Psetas) 27, 79
- Seitis**, Athanasia 65  
 Dimitrious 47, 65  
 Evangelia (Ammantedes) 65  
 Konstanino "Kosta" 1, 16, 28, 46, 47, 65, 48, 83, 84  
 Leonidas "Louie" 46, 65  
 Panagiota 46, 47, 65  
 Theodoros 47, 65  
 Theodoros 65  
 Vasiliki "Vasso" (Loungi) 47, 48, 65, 83  
 Zoi 46, 47, 65
- Sideris** 21
- Smith**, Penny Lee 63
- Sohail**, Sandra (Saites) 115
- Soulis** 15
- Sousa**, Christina Tanya "Tina" (Hahn) 73  
 Owen 73  
 Rebecca Anastasia 74
- Staggs**, Aaron 62  
 Michelle Kae (Saites) 62, 88, 114
- Staif**, Beverly 30, 59
- State**, Nick 26, 33  
 Tom 25, 26, 33
- Stathopoulos** 4  
 Ekaterini "Arkateri" 15, 25, 27, 28, 29, 34, 59  
 Nick 25, 26, 33  
 Tom 25, 26, 33
- Stavropoulos**, Eleni Haralambros "Elaine" (Saitis)  
 66, 67, 68, 71, 76  
 Helen G. 71, 74  
 James 24, 25, 26, 32, 67
- Stavros**, James 24, 25, 26, 32, 67
- Stefan**, Carrie Lynn (Saites) 62

**Stefan, Kurt** 62

**Stickney, Joyce** 41

**Stoumbos, Anna** 81

Gus 81

Harry 81

John 36

Louis 81

Maria (Saïtes) 81

Panagiota 80, 81

Zachary 81

**Stratton, Viola Marie** 63

## T

**Taratsas** 21

**Tasakos, Alexandra** 64

Angela Marie (Evison) 64

Aristotelis "Telly" 45, 64, 85

Charlene J (Angove) 64

Dimitra Eufrosini "Jamie" 45, 64, 85

Leonidas "Leo" 45, 64, 85

Polyxeni "Pauline" (Kolymparis) 1, 27, 42, 43, 45,  
46, 49, 64, 83, 85, 114

Ryan 64

Thaddeus 64

Vasiliki 64

Vasilos Leonidas "Bill" 44, 45, 46, 64, 84

Zagorka Anna (Mirjanovic) 64

**Thompson, Bonnie Jean** 72, 75

**Triantafilo, Georgina** 82

Maria Eugenia Saitis 1

**Triantafillou** 4, 21

**Triantaphyllou, Ioannis** 13, 110

**Tsaletakis** 21

**Tsatouchas** 21

**Tsekouras, Andy** 87

Olga 87

Vikki 87

**Tsipras** 15, 21

**Tully, Alfred Benjamin** 70, 74

Althea "Fifi" B. 70, 74, 86, 88

Corrine Elaine "Corkey" 70, 74, 86, 88

Helen William 'Elaine' (Saïtes) 17, 67, 69, 70, 74,  
86, 88, 113

Mary Katherine "Kathy" 70, 74

Patricia Ann 70, 74

Sandra Yvonne "Sandy" 70, 74, 88

## U

**Ukraine/Ukrainian** 19, 25, 38, 39, 78, 79

**Utah, Salt Lake City** 22

## V

**Vallance, Pamela "Pam"** 62, 87

**Vander Vliet, Ashley** 62

Christie Ann (Saïtes) 61

Riley Jo 62

Robert J 62

**Varin, Anna (Mortensen)** 33, 46, 48, 70, 87

Robert "Bob" 70

**Vitinaros, Efthemia "Effie"** 59, 114

Nick 59

## W

**Wander, Paula** 1, 82, 86, 87, 115, 116

**Wennergren, Corrine Elaine "Corkey" (Tully)** 70, 74,  
86, 88

Kenneth 74

Scott 74

Susan 74

**White, Mary Katherine "Kathy" (Tully)** 70, 74

**Whiters, Nicolette Louise "Nicki" (Saïtes)** 57, 61,  
87, 88, 116

Rick William 61

**Williams, Heidi (Roupas)** 81

James Anthony 81

Mattie Jean "Mary Jane" 81

**Wilson, Elizabeth Sarah "Beth"** 61

Francis Eugene "Frank" 61

Gloria 60, 87, 88

Nicolette Louise "Nicki" (Saïtes) 57, 61, 87, 88, 116

Todd Christopher 61

**Wisberg, Alexandria Marie** 74

Christian 74

Christina Tanya "Tina" (Hahn) 69, 74, 85, 87

Troy 74, 86, 88

## X

**Xanalatos, Sofia** 81

**Xereoi** 5

## Y

**Yax, Elsie** 61

## Z

**Zacharopoulos, Connie** 88

Harry 88

**Zaharopoulos, Efthemia "Effie"** 78

**Zakas, Asimo** 49

**Zoe** 49

**Zakkas** 15

**Zohos** 15

**Kostas** 16

**Zoupas** 15

**Zozos, Father Constantine** 23, 85

