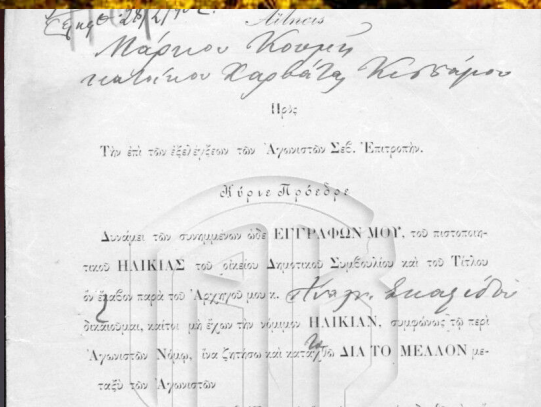




GREEK  
ANCESTRY

## Monthly Newsletter

October 2021



### THIRD VHPI BENEFICIARY

The third beneficiary of the Village History Project Initiative (VHPI) Grant was chosen earlier this month. The recipient was the "[Amykles Villages History Project](#)" sponsored by Paula Antonakos-Boswell and Diane Gotses Jackson. The Amykles project aims at preserving and highlighting the history of the village of Amykles, Lakonia, and the archives, photos and stories of its families.

### JENNIFER ANISTON'S FAMILY HISTORY

Greek Ancestry was delighted to research Jennifer Aniston's family history, which was featured in a recent [article](#) from the Greek Reporter, written by Anna Wichmann. We discovered that Jennifer's great-grandfather, Markos Koumis, was a war hero who fought in the Cretan Revolt of 1878! Our team was able to learn more about Koumis's service thanks to a document known as a Petition, which can be seen in the image above from the General State Archives of Greece (GAK).

### NEW RECORDS FOR HYDRA & IOANNINA

Earlier this month, Greek Ancestry was proud to release 20,000 new voter lists for Hydra and Ioannina! Voter list records typically include the voter's name, age, occupation, father's name, and voter's current residence. They can assist you with bringing your family tree back another generation! Search for these records today on [GreekAncestry.net](#).



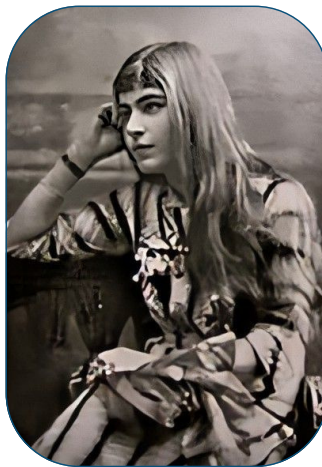


# FINDING YIAYIA'S PIRATES

“

*Andrew's yiayia, named Aikaterini Logara, was born in 1897 in present-day Ampelos, Samos, and her story was as follows: 'Pirates' had come to Samos.*

Read this article by Alexandra Kiritsy and Andrew Jendrzewski about Aikaterini Logara and her pirates on [GreekAncestry.net](http://GreekAncestry.net)!

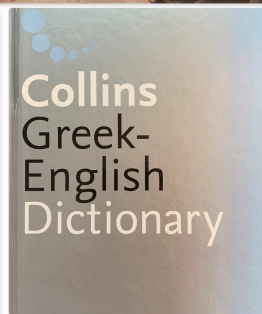
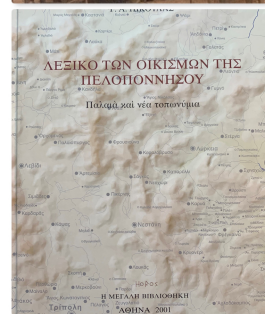
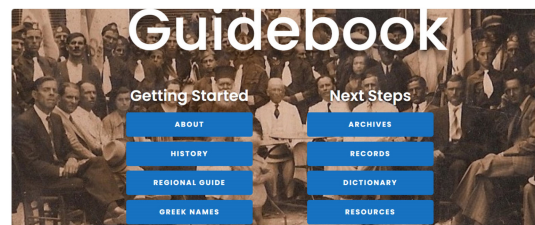


## CAROL'S CORNER

by Carol Kostakos Petranek



Within arm's reach of my desk are three essential items in my "Greek Genealogy Toolbox" that I cannot do without: Collins Greek-English Dictionary, Pikoulas' Lexicon of Settlements in the Peloponnese, Old and New Place Names, and Greek Ancestry's [Greek Genealogy Guide](http://GreekAncestry.net). Each of these resources fulfills a critical component of my research requirements.



With my rudimentary (at best!) language skills, I find that Google Translate does a passable job, but the Dictionary gives me multiple variants of the root of a word to help me decide exactly which definition is applicable to the document I am reading. The Lexicon enables me to look up the name of any village in the Peloponnese to find its "Nomos" (district) and "Dimos" (municipality). The book cross-references old and new names; for example, I can search for the old village name of Sklavochori and learn that its current name is Amykles, in the Nomos of Lakonia and the Dimos of Sparta. Throughout the 20th century (from the 1920s-1970s), the Greek government abolished all Ottoman-based village names and thousands of towns were renamed. You must know the name of your ancestors' villages at the time the records were created, and you also need the current village name to determine which Municipality holds those records today.

## GREEK ANCESTRY'S PHOTO CONTEST



**Smyrna, circa 1915. Submitted by John Zavales.**

### GOT AN OLD PHOTO YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A GREEK GENEALOGY GUIDE COUPON?

Submit an old family photo to Greek Ancestry to participate in our photo contest! If chosen, your photo will be featured in next month's newsletter and you will be awarded a discount coupon for Greek Ancestry's online Greek Genealogy Guide!

**Submit photos to [info@greekancestry.net](mailto:info@greekancestry.net)**





## Did you know?

Most Greek immigrants  
arrived in the United  
States between 1900  
and 1920.



## 2nd International Greek Ancestry Conference

January 29 - 30, 2022  
More details to come!

# 767,091

unique family records and counting



You Tube

Carol's Corner

Continued:

Greek Ancestry's [Greek Genealogy Guide](#) is a vital resource to help you get to the records you are seeking. By consulting the Guide, "one can navigate the complexities of Greek genealogy and find the correct resources to both access and request relevant documentation for his or her ancestors." The Guide has several sections: History, so you can put your ancestor's life in context; Records, to teach you the types of documents held by the repositories; and Archives, to help you understand the repositories that hold records in Greece. Also included are sections on Greek Names with helpful tips on understanding the meaning of surnames and the use of nicknames (paratsoukli), a Dictionary with Greek language guides and common genealogy words in Greek and English, and links to additional Resources.

The section with the Regional Guide is the key to finding the names and addresses of the repositories which have the records you are seeking. This section is divided into the thirteen Administrative Regions of Greece, then into the Regional Units and Municipalities of each of the thirteen Regions. Under each Regional Unit are links to that Unit's central offices, Greek Orthodox Church Metropolises, K.E.P. (Citizen's Services) Offices; and G.A.K. (State Archives) offices. By utilizing the links in this Guide, you can access the exact office needed to obtain the records you are seeking.

As your research expands, your references must also expand. Having the correct items in your Greek Genealogy Toolbox will enable you to work efficiently and accurately.

