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Lakos Newsletter: Volume Two April 07, 2006

Welcome to the second edition of the Lakos news letter!

Spring is in the air! Here in Boston we hardly had a winter. Compared to last years 90 plus inches of snow, this year couldn't compare. No complaints here! Put the shovel away and get out the rake, New England spring fever will be spreading soon.

It's 2006! Brother Jim just celebrated his 51st birthday on April 4th. Happy Birthday older brother! Speaking of birthdays, I'd like to mention some other milestones; Nefew Alex just turned 23 on April 7th. And our nieces, Sofia and Arianna celebrated their two year mark, representing the youngest of the clan...and cutest!(see picture on pg 2). Papou, the Greek Patriarch Nicholas Thomas Katsoulakos, is now 82 and still bearing a strong voice. Our Italian Mother, **Yole, will be celebrating her 80th birthday this October 31st** and is still raking and blowing leaves in the yard! Cleopatra turned 84 this summer and has been fighting signs of cancer in her lungs, but with a passion for life, we're glad she'll be at our Easter feast again this year and probably have her best greek cookies and baklava too. For the rest of us aunts and uncles, we're somewhere between 39 and 45, maybe I'll produce a family tree next year to include everyone.

It's that time of year again when uncle Steve gets crazy about our Greek ancestry and I'm glad that everyone takes it with a good heart. Especially my 4 sister-in-laws and my wife who have adopted our Greek Orthodoxy heritage, learned to cook at least one special Greek dish and stand to watch us roast a whole lamb once in a while, fly the Greek flag on Easter and Greek Independence Day and burn some incense that make the house smell like a church!

It's an important link to our heritage and understanding as to how we got here to America, the land of the immigrants. I was once told by an old man in Monemvassia, while travelling through Greece that your Greek blood stays untainted for 7 generations of intermixing. It is of course an old folklore but in deeper consideration I think they want you to recognize that fact. The Greek society was in a tragic decline under the ottoman empire, reduced to a mere million indigenious Greeks. To acknowledge your greek heritage is to lay another brick on building back of a race that once illuminated the world. If you can trace your heritage back to Greece you will always be welcome there.

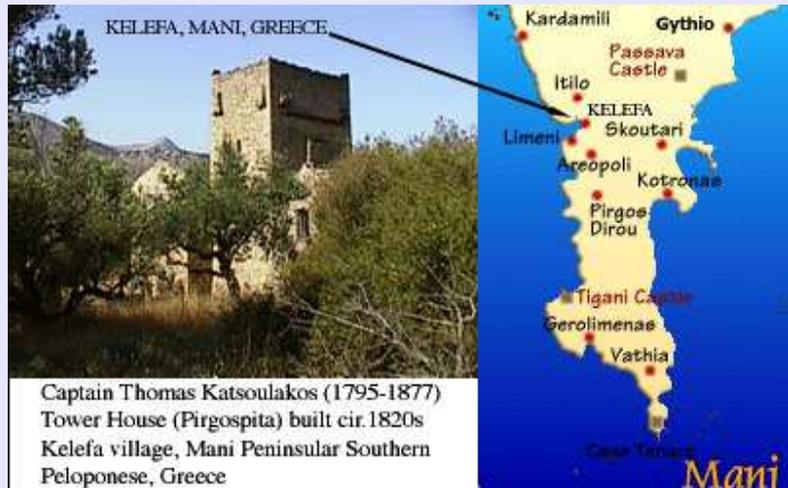
Greek Easter – April 23, 2006

What does Spanikopita, Pastitsio, Orzo and lamb and Baklava bring to mind? Easter is around the corner. Of course we wouldn't let a year pass without the family getting together for this important holiday and celebration. Last year was a great success despite the bad weather we had. Let's hope this years weather is more accomodating. Uncle Steve and Sandra will be hosting as usual and we will be sending correspondence with more details. In the mean time check out some of the pictures from last year.



Greek Independence Day

Greek Independence Day (March 25th) has just passed by. This year marked the 185th anniversary. Our own great great grandfather, Kapetan Katsoulakos, was there with his clan of soldiers when the revolutionary flag was raised in Aegiali. They then marched on Kalamata and began an 8 year war with the Turks for their independence. He then built this home, married and raised 4 children from whom we descend. His home still stands.



Katsoulakos Greek History

Early March 1821

The great uprising is about to take place in Greece...Continued from Volume One

The Maniote forces were assembled in Tsimova (later to be named Aegiali: translates "City of War"), in the tiny square. The captains of the Manis leading families arrived with their clans of soldiers eager to make their first strike. Captain Thomas Katsoulakos arrived from his village although I am not sure if that was Kelefa where he would later acquire much land and build his home. Kolokotronis and Mavromichalis lead the march.



Kolokotronis recalls; "As we went along, the Greeks showed great enthusiasm. They came out to meet us everywhere, carrying sacred icons, with priest chanting supplications and thanks giving to god. Once I could not forbear weeping on the account of audor for which I beheld. The crowds followed them until they reached the bridge to Kalamata where the soldiers exchanged greeting and marched forward."

On March 23rd the Turks of kalamata facing overwhelming forces and on the promise that their lives would be spared, surrendered, but not many survived: in the chilling phrase of a contemporary, "the moon devoured them".

The capitulation was followed by a great celebration at Kalamatas main church. For once, unrestrained by Turkish authority, described in these words: "Twenty four priests officiated, and five thousand armed men stood round. Never was a solemn service of the Orthodox Church celebrated with greater fervour, never did hearts overflow with sincerer devotion to Heaven, nor with warmer gratitude to their church and their god. Patriotic tears poured down the cheeks of rude warriors, and ruthless brigands sobbed like children. All present felt that the event formed an era in the history of their nation". Petrobey Mavromichalis was proclaimed both the senate leader and the 'commander-in-chief' of the Spartan forces. On this day a call was issued to the nations of Europe, one that would be repeated continually though the course of the struggle. "The Greeks are united, we have resolved to be free or to perish, our cause is just and sacred, Greece was the lamp that illuminated you and now she reckons on your active philanthropy".

Pictures Page



Brothers, Paul, James, John, Our Dad Nicholas, brother Steve, Nefew Jason and brother Chris



Dad and Mom at home in Nokemis Florida



Uncle Steve and Sandra performing with their band.



Steve serving up the cocktails, new years eve.



Thomas, Arianna and cousin Jordan

What's up with Nina?

Well, you've all by now met Nina. Aside from having a lovely voice, she recently started taking guitar lessons! Haha!



Thanks for reading the Katsoulakos Newsletter Volume two. As usual please pardon any spelling errors and typographical errors. I didn't have anyone proof read this. - Stephen Lakos

To read more on our family name, go to <http://www.katsoulakos.com/> then if you stil want more I can recommend a few good books.

