

OVER 130 YEARS OF THE COLCHAMIRA DYNASTY AND THEIR
CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY

My grandparents were Yessoula and Rachel, born in Yannina Turkey in the 19th century. Simple, not rich but well known for their sense of humor. They managed to raise a family of eleven children. Together, they worked hard and happily in the yarn business.

These are their children.

Mathew and Sarina-Mathew the first son was a clever businessman who was well respected. He was strict in the yarn business. When his father passed away he became a dictator in his father's house although he was already married. Only my mother Dinah. was able to handle him. His first son Jess was a successful manufacturer of sleepwear in North Carolina. A giant in the industry, he employed over 1000 people. He was also a philanthropist, a charitable leader in the community, a good friend to the poor and unfortunate a mason, a shriner, a member of the B'nai B'rith and president of the Yannina community and Shepardic Home. He was a true leader with many accomplishments.

Simha married J. Negrin. They raised a fine family. I don't know much about them because they passed away before I knew them.

Leon and Julia Colchamiro-Leon was well known in the community a prince, a leader, a hard worker for the progress of the community. He was an organizer of community affairs. Respected by all, he organized 4 or 5 temples in different parts of New York. He was always elected by acclamation and was president for many years. He was also a successful manufacturer. His sons followed him in the business; James, Morris, Ralph, except for Charlie who was successful in the silverware business. He was truly a Great man.

Malkoula and Yeoda. She married a religious man. They raised a fine family. One of his sons Morris, who was well known as a lawyer and community leader was also president of the Yannina community.

Asser and Steroula-Aser was a remarkable man with a great sense of humor. Knowing that he had seven sisters he realized he had to help them get married. He managed a small textile business

in the town of Delmar, Delaware, that he had been in contact with one of his attorneys and had received the bill for \$100.00. The bill was dated 1/15/50 and was for legal services rendered by the attorney.

The bill was paid by check on 1/20/50. The check was cashed by the bank on 1/20/50. The bank statement for 1/20/50 shows a debit for \$100.00 to the account of the attorney.

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in the town of Delvinio, Albania. He got his salary in advance so one of his sisters could have a dowry and get married. He did that 4 or 5 times. They raised a wonderful family respectfully.

Dinah married Ezra Bacola a successful businessman. My parents were settled in Paramythia for about forty years and were well respected by the whole town. Their sons were successful businessmen in textiles until the Nazis came to Greece and took all of them, away-fathers, brothers, and sisters including their families. All were wiped out except for two who ran to the mountains and me, Max for I was here in America.

I, Max emigrated to New York in 1914 from Greece. After a few years I went into business and was successful in New York for 30 years. In 1943 I moved to California and settled in Los Angeles where my son, Edward joined me after he came home from the army after WW II. He also joined the Masons and Shriners. Some years later my sister Bimbo's son Ginò joined me and all three of us now run a very successful manufacturing business.

Besides my business I had been active in community affairs, served the Sephardic Temple of Los Angeles and a member of the B'nai B'rith, Masons, Shriners, and treasurer of the Sephardic Club of the City of Hope, National Medical Hospital, a Zionist, and active in Israeli affairs.

Steroula married Israel Dalven who was older than her. They raised a fine family. Their first son Dr. Joe Dalven became the Medical Director of the Sephardic Home and is now the chief editor of the monthly bulletin. Their daughter Rae has many degrees from various universities. Her accomplishments as a professor, lecturer, author of many books, linguist and more honors our pride.

Matzalo married David Kaplan who was well known in the industry and the community. A successful businessman he was well loved by all. Matzalo was a remarkable, charitable woman. Her house was always full of people where she was hostess to 10 - 30 people at a time. They raised a large family of lovable children who were later successful businessmen.

Hanoula married Isaac Cohen who came to Yannina from Castoria. After some years they came to New York. She was a lovable woman with a great sense of humor. They were in the manufacturing business for a great many years. They raised a fine family. One of the daughters became a lawyer who worked with judges. Two of her sisters were school principals.

Elia married Esperanza. He was a remarkable man with a nice sense of humor. He always had a smile on his face. He was a manufacturer and so were his sons. Aside from his business was a leader, a president and adviser to the community. Elia was well known and many people remember his sayings and jokes.

Refko married Haim Cohen the brother of Isaac Cohen. He was in the textile business in Castoria. When he came to New York he went into the manufacturing business. They raised a fine family. Their sons are in the manufacturing business except for Dr. Jules Cohen, a prominent doctor well known in New York.

I did not include the fourth and fifth generation because there are more than 200. Most of them are professionals or college students.

Hanoula was the last link of the Colchamira. She was 95 when she passed away in the end of 1976. May God bless their souls and let them rest in peace.

I, one of the many and older devoted grandsons of the Colchamira family wishes love and good health to my cousins and the rest of the family.

Love,

Max Bacola