

## ANDREAS FRANTZESKOS

Interviewee: Antreas Frantzeskos, Kingston June 30th 2017, Duration: 30:12

Interviewed by: George Katinas; Translation: Athina Peidou

min:sec

File:

KGHP\_17\_FRANTZESKOS\_A\_20170630\_KINGSTON\_GKATINAS\_AUDIO.MP3

**Interview Time**

**Chronology**

**Place**

**Description**

Interview Time	Chronology	Place	Description
0:42	Born	Bougazi, Ammohostos, Cyprus	I was born in Bougazi village. It was a fishermen village with limited tourism (1 hotel) and 3 factories. People went from their villages to work there, and then went back to their own villages (not many people lived inside).
1:25	First years	Bougazi, Ammohostos, Cyprus	My mother comes from Saint Ilias village, and my father comes from Gastria. My brother lives in England
1:44			Small factories (40/50 employees each) were involved in coconut oil production, animals' food production and gypsum production.
3:20			Father was a fisherman. The village was known for its Mediterranean fish. He didn't help his father, because he would go out at 3am to fish. He sold his fish to restaurants.
4:20			Kindergarten: Saint Ilias; Primary School: Bougazi; High School: Trikomo (8km ~1 hour walk)
5:58			Parents' home: 2 bedrooms and a living room. There was a kitchen and a laundry room. Later after high-school while I was working we could afford a renovation of the home (added a couple more rooms).
7:02	After high-school	Bougazi, Nicosia	Worked for 3 years (1 in Bougazi and 2 in Nicosia in Peugeot car industry). Afterwards, I moved to Cardiff England to pursue undergraduate studies in electrical engineering. My brother was living there.

7:44	After 3-years working	England	University studies in Electrical Engineering, La Morgan University (close to Cardiff).
9:17			Living situation: At the beginning I was living with some relatives (aunt) and then with my brother. During my studies, I stayed in the university residence
10:20			Graduated at the age of 26 years old.
10:30	After graduation	Nigeria	Worked for the English Electric Company. I did my internship in this company so when I graduated, the company asked for engineers to work in a project in Nigeria. I worked there for a year and then returned to England. That is when I decided to go back to Cyprus.
11:45			Nigeria: There was a project on commissioning so we tested all the infrastructure and then we provided electricity to various cities.
12:53	After Nigeria	Cyprus	Worked for a cement company for a year
13:16			Afterwards I was working for a Cyprus oil refinery until the time we decided to move to Canada (in 1976).
14:02	1974 to 1976	Cyprus to Canada	In 1974 Turkey attacked Cyprus. They occupied the top northern part of the island. After negotiations Turkey decided to continue the attack and while I was living with my wife in Ammohostos we heard bombs going around (in August). The Turkish attacked Ammohostos. My wife was ready to give a birth at that time. We left right in the morning when we heard bombs, leaving with nothing.
15:26			We moved to the southern part of the island. Some relatives accommodated us for the summer. There were 50 people living in one house. After the summer, we moved to Larnaka, which was the city I was working in, and stayed there for 2 years.  During those two years, they worked elsewhere, since they had lost their jobs. Beforehand, Cleo (wife) was a teacher in the northern part of the city. My son was 1.5 years old at this time; he was born two days after the attack.
18:29	1976-1994		<i>Why Canada, not another country?</i> My wife's brother was working in Canada as a doctor. He sponsored us to go to Mellville, Saskatchewan.

19:35		Melville, Saskatchewan, Canada	Moving to Canada was a huge shock. The weather and the environment were very different. There were only 2 other Greek families in the area. In the first year, we lived with my brother-in-law. I worked as electrician to a contractor. Later, I found a job in the repair and maintenance field. Then we bought our own business selling sporting clothes and shoes. In the first years we made a decent profit, but later, due to the decrease in farmers' income, our income decreased considerably. This is because many people there were farmers (the customers).
21:36			After 6 years our business failed. Our sons and our daughter were living in Kingston taking courses at RMC (Evangelos) and Queen's University (Savvas and Chrystalla).
22:07	1994-today	Moved to Kingston, Canada	We moved to Kingston in 1994. At the beginning we were renting a house and after 2 years we bought a house which is the one we still live in.
22:13			Evangelos (first son) graduated from RMC, and after 5 years of working for the military he attended McGill for MBA and now works for a bank.
23:10			When they moved to Canada, they wrote and called their family often. It was more difficult with no technology back then. Now we don't visit Cyprus that often due to the distance and the high cost (we visit every five years).
24:25:00			We were familiar with the English language as both my wife and I attended schools whose primary language was English
25:22:00			Savvas (second son) has a background in biology. For 2-3 years he worked internationally with contracts. Then he took physiotherapy and now he works at Kingston's hospital.
26:25:00			We met many Greeks here in the church and have good relationships with many families.
27:27:00			When we moved to Kingston it was very difficult, especially with finding jobs. The Greek community helped us a lot. I worked for the community at the beginning and then the community's priest helped me to find a job at LaSalle hotel which was my last job before retirement at the age of 66.

28:45:00	Today	Kingston, Canada	I spend most of my time gardening and running now. I run 5 km every other day. I actually participated in many running marathons.
----------	-------	---------------------	---