

Peggy Gerasimos and Margaret Zakos

<b>Interviewees: Peggy Geracimos and Margaret Zakos, Duration: 29:15</b>			
<b>Interviewed by: George Katinas; Translation and summary: Athina Peidou</b>			
<b>min:sec</b>	<b>File:</b>	<b>KGHP_17_GERACIMO&amp;ZAKOS_P&amp;M_20171011_KINGSTON_GKATINAS_AUDIO.MP3</b>	
<b>Interview Time</b>	<b>Chronology</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Description</b>
			<i>Note: Peggy and Margaret are cousins.</i>
<b>0:45</b>			James and Helen Zakos were the paternal grandparents of Margaret Zakos
<b>0:55</b>			Margaret's earliest memories of them: James and Helen Zakos were living in 130 MacDonald street. They had many family events there. Their grandchildren were always at their place, and so the cousins lived like one big family.
<b>1:30</b>	1950		Margaret and her sister used to live at the corner of Barrie and Princess Street. They moved to the MacDonald street house, living with Peggy's and Margaret's grandparents, when Peggy started school. Peggy remembers more about them than Margaret, because she is much older. Peggy was born in 1944.
<b>3:05</b>			James came to Kingston in 1914. Before moving to Kingston he immigrated to Chicago in 1887. He stayed there till 1895. Then he returned to Greece and married Helen. He moved to Kingston in 1914 and opened the Olympia fruit and vegetable stand near the orange hall.
<b>4:01</b>			He brought his older children to Canada shortly after that and later he brought his entire family along with his wife. Helen, his wife, immigrated to Canada in 1925.
<b>4:40</b>			The village was called Stadium. Peggy found his house in Greece the first time she went, and her grandfather's initials were signed in the marble of the house. That's how she found the house. Her cousin was living there at the time. He told her to go visit the church and see what her grandpa had done for the church over the years.
<b>5:33</b>			She has seen all the donations that James did for the church in his village in Greece.
<b>6:15</b>			People in their village still remember the Zakos family. People called the girls the Zakitsas when they arrived. Margaret couldn't believe they still remembered them.
<b>7:00</b>			Helen's village is not fully confirmed. However Margaret believes that she came from the same village as her grandfather, as they saw an old photo of the families together in the village with all of their children. Helen had 7 siblings
<b>8:42</b>			James was a merchant in Greece. He was also working in a farm to make food for the family, but was primarily a merchant. His passport said that he was a merchant. They don't know if he could have immigrated if he didn't have experience as a merchant.
<b>9:42</b>			James's sister, Nikolitsa, lived in Chicago. They assumed he lived with her for 8 years. He worked until he raised enough money, then he moved back to Greece. He had 10 children.
<b>10:50</b>			When James moved to Kingston he opened the Olympian fruit store. The fruits and vegetables were their primary business. In the basement he made candies and chocolates to sell in the store.

<b>11:39</b>			The whole family worked in the stores. The girls were making candies and the boys were in the store. Spiros did not work in the store. Physically he couldn't work.
<b>12:28</b>			They all went to school. Margaret's father went to Central Public School, even though he was older. It was difficult for him to be in that context. He said he was 10 years old and in kindergarten. They did this in order to learn the language. Education was important. James wanted his children to speak English fluently.
<b>13:21</b>			James family lived at 297 Division street. Margaret's and Peggy's uncles George and Nick lived in Chicago and then went back to Kingston.
<b>13:39</b>			Uncle George married a lady from Belleville and he had a business there.
<b>13:55</b>			Uncle Nick married a lady from Andy McFayden Canandaigua and he opened a restaurant on King and Princess.
<b>15:00</b>			James had 10 children, so the age span of the children was large (1897-1914 were the birthdates of the children). Not everybody stayed together because they were all at different points in their lives; they also moved to different places (with marriage). The women all got married. Some (Peggy and Voula) moved to Chicago to be 'married off', and others to San Francisco. Only the boys (Tom, Gus and their dad) and aunt (Chrysa) were married in Kingston.
<b>16:08</b>			The family spread out but they all stayed in touch.
<b>17:00</b>			The family in Kingston all lived within blocks of each other. Kingston was small back then: "Palace Road was the end of Kingston".
<b>17:36</b>			The family kept together through social events and through the church. Peggy remembers her dad, her uncle, and George Speal working together to set up the church... she remembers carrying chairs around to help them. But even before the church was established, the family got together every Sunday and during all the celebrations.
<b>19:00</b>			The family was very close. The Sakells would join them. They were a big group. All the cousins were together all the time.
<b>20:42</b>			James and Helen were very close to their grandchildren. There was a great respect for their grandparents. Margaret and Peggy always kissed their hands. Grandparents babysat the girls when there was a need. And the roles reversed as they got older, and the grandchildren took care of the grandparents. Peggy lived in the same house as them.
<b>22:15</b>			Helen died in 1954. Peggy was only 10. She remembers Helen's funeral. They all stood outside of the house and all the kids stayed on the porch to say the last goodbye to their grandmother before they went to the cemetery. Both her grandparents are buried at the Catarauqui cemetery, along with other family members (such as Margaret's parents).
<b>24:15</b>			Peggy used to speak both Greek and English to her grandparents. Until the age of 4 she was speaking only Greek (until she went to school).
<b>25:00</b>			Peggy's father was the youngest and the last to get married, so he lived with his parents and brought his wife into his home, and later when they got old, his family took care of them. She felt this was a unique situation for Canadian families, but not for Greek families. That's just the way it was, and she felt it was a richer environment to grow up in, having the extended family under one roof.

<b>26:23</b>			They had family dinners very often. Margaret was living very close to Peggy - just around the corner. She felt she was in Margaret's house just as often as her own. They could walk into the front door of either home just the same.
<b>27:08</b>			Every Sunday they whole family got together. They had a cottage. All the cousins went to summer camps altogether.
<b>28:20</b>			They still have this relationship. The new generations of the Zakos family keep this close relationship with each other.