

Mike Kanellos

<b>Interviewee: Mike Kanellos, Kingston, Duration: 45:41</b>			
<b>Interviewed by: George Katinas; Translation: Athina Peidou</b>			
<b>min:sec</b>	<b>File:</b>	<b>KGHP_18_KANELLOS_M_20180120_KINGSTON_GKATINAS_AUDIO</b>	
<b>Interview Time</b>	<b>Chronology</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Description</b>
0:40	Born	Hiliomodi, Korinthias	He was born in Hiliomodi, Korinthias. The village was named by a wealthy person who earned a lot of money through agriculture (hilio means thousands and modi means crops).
1:40	First years		His father's name was Spiros Kanellos (born in Hiliomodi) and his mother's name was Panagiota Kollias (born in Thekia).
2:18			Mike's family had a factory that produced roofs from clay. There were 4 siblings. They made approximately 1000 clay tiles per day.
2:40			The roofs were hand-made. They made the roofs from clay and then they put them on a wood-stove. They found wood from the near forest during the winter. They moved the products with the help of animals.
3:30			Hiliomodi had a special clay that was very good for roof tiles. The clay was very tough. They hydrated the ground and they made very smooth clay. They kicked the clay so that it became thick. And then they put them on the mold. They roasted them for 24 hours and then they put them in lines and customers were coming to buy them. The business was 1 km away from the village.
8:20			This business was run by the family for many generations. It was a profitable business. The factory had 10 employees. When Mike and his siblings grew up they took over the business completely.
9:28			
10:12			When Mike was a kid he used to play with other kids for fun. Later in his teenage years he liked Greek music and bouzoukia.

Mike Kanellos

10:42			Mike's house was the last house of the village. His neighbor was named Vasilis Bastounis. Another neighbor was Meletis who worked for the train rail.
11:45			Mike's house had 1 bedroom at the front entrance. There was also a huge wooden box for tiles in the house. They also had a basement. There was also a yard. There was only 1 big room, and the bedroom and the kitchen were connected.
13:45			Mike decided to move to Canada after World War 2. He fought Germans for 5 years. He was also shot by Germans by a mortar. He survived but got injured. Mike was 15 years old.
15:25			English soldiers were there fighting Germans as well. Mike was accommodating them.
17:10			Mike tried to hide them from Germans.
18:17			Germans tried to kill everyone who resisted in Peloponissos. There was a lake in Zyria mountain and a path that Germans crossed. Mike and the other Greeks blocked them to go the village. There were approximately 300-400 Germans. Mike and the other Greeks killed them all.
21:10			They buried them in the near villages
21:39			When Germans took the train from Athens to Kalamata the Greeks killed all the Germans inside the train.
22:02			In order to protect their trains Germans put at the front trail 20 Greek hostages so that Greeks would know that if they attack the train the hostages will be killed. Mike's brother Theodoros was one of the Greeks caught by Germans.
23:00			These years were very tough. Mike didn't even go to his house because he was afraid of being killed by Germans. Once the war came to an end in 1945 Germans were powerless.
24:15			After World War 2 what followed was a civil war in Greece. Mike participated in that war as well. After the civil war in 1950 he had to fulfill his military services.

## Mike Kanellos

25:12			Mike was sent to Souda in Crete and then to other military bases in Crete.
27:06			After World War 2 Canada allowed everyone that served as soldier in Europe to come to Canada freely. Mike's brother Theodoros and his family moved to Kingston first. He worked as chef in RMC and he did other jobs as well.
28:10			Mike disliked the years of war and he decided to follow his brother and move to Canada.
28:25			Mike took the Volcania ship to Canada. He got a ship (called the Dolphin) to Napoli. There, they waited for Volcania for a week to fill up and once it was filled with 1500 people they began the trip to Canada.
29:18			When Mike left from Athens to Napoli he met a father from Sparta whose daughter was about to move to Montreal. The father asked Mike to take care of his daughter. Mike took care of this girl during the trip. She was only 16 and he was treating and protecting her like his daughter.
30:47			Mike took the train from Halifax to Kingston. He landed in Canada on January the 1st. It took them 3 days to go from Halifax to Kingston.
31:45			Mike first worked at Galanis's restaurant called the Steak House, on Barrie Street.
32:45			After Mike, Jim and Costas (the other 2 brothers) followed Mike and Theodoros and they also moved to Canada. They all lived together in Kingston at first.
33:17			Mike was working at Davis tannery, along with other brothers of his. (Making leather with a press). He made 52 different designs of leather. He worked there for 11 years.
34:25			In 1971 Mike resigned and started working at Queen's for 25 years. He is receiving 1500 CAD a month for pension after all these years of work
35:05			He was working as a janitor. He was grateful for this work, as he had children to provide for.
36:00			Costas (Mike's brother) and Mike's wife knew each other beforehand in Winnipeg. Then Mike asked her to come to Kingston. They got married in 1966.
36:20			In 1952 Mike was working for 16 hours per day in the tannery. That is how he could buy a house.
37:50			Later he opened a cleaning company. While he was working at Queen's his wife was cleaning the Kingston General Hospital.

Mike Kanellos

38:30			Aside from their work they both worked cleaning offices and businesses. He recruited 8 employees
39:00			He was cleaning Scotiabank and many other buildings in the city. He made good money with this business.
40:02			Mike bought his first house at 345 Barrie street. He was living at Balaclava street.
40:02			At the beginning, he was living at the intersection of Barrie and Bathurst street. Then he bought his Charleston street house for 40000 dollars.
41:47			When Spiros was 14 years old Mike bought a house from a Chinese woman at William street for 14000 CAD.
42:38			After these houses he started buying houses in various places in the city.
43:20			At the beginning everyone was helping the Greek community. And Mike helped the church with donations and other materials needed.
43:45			Mike got married at Saint George's Church at Johnson and King street. A priest from Ottawa came for the service.
44:13			The best man was Stavros Kavaras. He was Mike's father's friend from Greece migrating to the US.
45:02			Mike visited Greece from 1969 to 1979 every year during the dictatorship. He had a huge fortune by that time that he used every time he was visiting Greece.