

## KAZANJIAN FAMILY TREE DRAWN BY PILIBOS KAZANJIAN ABOUT 1932

Translation by his granddaughter Beatrice Koobation Casparian in 1977  
Research and revisions by Deirdre Casparian\*

According to information given to me by my mother-in-law, Beatrice/Bea, the family tree was drawn by her Grandfather Pilibos to introduce his middle son, John 'Casey', when he traveled to meet his eastern cousins. John had completed a degree in economics in 1928, begun to study law, and then decided to become a professional wrestler in 1930.

When Bea was four, her parents separated. Hayastan returned to her parents with her daughter. Pilibos had sold his farm in Fowler, and worked at a tailor and cleaner shop a few yards down the road from a rented house on 39<sup>th</sup> Place, Los Angeles. His youngest son Haig lived there as he studied at the University of Southern California and then worked as a pharmacist. His daughter Diana was at high school. His eldest married son, Kosrov/Carl, an architect, was nearby, and his second son, Ardashes/Arthur, a dentist, was soon to marry and also live nearby.

Bea grew up speaking both English and Armenian; Pilibos probably taught his young granddaughter to read and write Armenian. She may well have watched as he drew this 'cactus tree'. This version that we have looks like a first draft with notes on the side.

When she translated it for me, Bea wrote the circled numbers to indicate the order of birth of the children at the top of the tree. She drew the arrow pointing to John/Hovannes and separating the children of Eghsapat Aharonian with Hovannes Kazanjian from those from her previous marriage. It is likely she was a widow with two children who were adopted by Hovannes.

Bea mentioned a family story of every generation having a John or Hovannes, and that there was a family tracing, made by Drtad, back to a legendary King John. It does help explain why the trunk of the tree is always Hovannes, even to the topmost branch.

In general, only offspring with the Kazanjian surname are listed, which is why Bea herself is not on the tree. Bea added Maritza's husband and children's names. Wives, if listed, are by first name only, except Mariam Hazarkhan.

The tombstone at the bottom shows place names, Yerevan, Moosh/Mus, Palu and Keserig. From the book that Pilibos wrote, we now know that the family came from Palu and some worked as butchers; one was a headman. Pilibos was born in Keserig. When he was one, Hovannes and Yegsapat moved with four children to Hussenig, which is where Bea said the family came from.

Most of the supporting documentation is available on 'Family Search'. I have included information from the Ottoman Census of 1840 for Keserig, supplied by George Aghjayan.

### GREATGRAND PARENTS OF PILIBOS: HOVANNES AND RRAYAN KAZANJIAN

The lowest divided part of the trunk is **Hovannes**, and his wife, **Rryan** both born about 1744.

### GRAND PARENTS OF PILIBOS: HOVANNES AND KHATOON

The second section of the tree has one of Rryan's male offspring:

**Hovannes / Ohan**, a tailor born about 1864, and wife, **Khatoon**. The Ottoman census of 1840 shows they lived in Keserig, household #92. In the next household, #91 lived **Apraham** from Palu. Born about 1780, he is possibly a younger brother of Ohan. If so, he would have been a Great-uncle to Pilibos.

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\* Special thanks to the cousins I have met on line. Their encouragement and valuable information helped me to understand our family tree. My apologies for errors or omissions.

Three male offspring are shown for Hovannes and Khatoon, and may be matched to the census:

**Arslan** born 1784, a prosperous farmer, of medium height and a grey beard.

**Khaplan**, may be Kapo born 1831, son of Toto who is a brother of Arslan and Hovannes

**Hovannes / Ohan** born 1798, with middle income, of medium height, and black moustache. He is shown on sections three and four on the trunk of the tree with two wives and fourteen children.

**PARENTS OF PILIBOS**  
**THE SEVEN CHILDREN OF HOVANNES AND MARIAM HAZARKHAN**  
 Section three of the tree

**1) RRAYAN**

**2) ASLAN**

**3) KHAPLAN**

Rrayan, Aslan and Khaplan, half-siblings to Pilibos, were probably unmarried.

**4) DONABED** and unknown wife had three sons:

**a) Mardiros:** est dob 1857 in Armenia, died 21 January 1915 at 66 Hanover St, Worcester MA. He was single, age 58, a tobacco merchant per death certificate. *His father is listed as Kazanjian, but it may not have been this Donabed. Information was given by Nishan Yagjian of 60 Green St, Worcester.*

**b) Hampartzoom:** no information

**c) Asdour:** There is no documentation, other than Pilibos' tree, to link this Asadour to Donabed, but the following, living generations, confirm it. He married Varvar Zamamgian/Lamanigian, and they had three sons:

**Marsoob/Mesrop/Marscrub:** born 9 Jan 1864 at Harput, Armenia, died Worcester Mass. He arrived in Newport RI about age 23 and lived above the Kazanjian Store in Bellerive Ave. After working at the store for about 13 years, he moved to Providence in 1900 where he married Alton Haiagian. She died of tuberculosis the following year and their son died three days later, aged three months.

**Masorab** 1901-1901 Providence RI (not on the tree). Marsoob moved to New York City the following year. He was working as a tailor when he married Seranoosh Aredisian at Auburndale Mass. in 1908. They had the two unnamed sons on the tree, also a daughter. When he died in 1924 his occupation was listed as confectioner.

**Herach** born 1909-?

**Mesrop** born 1910-1960

**Melanoosh** born 1917- 2004 (a girl, not on the tree)

**Mardiros/Martin** born 1875 Armenia. He arrived in America age 20, and worked for Hood Rubber. In 1907, age 32 he married Highganoosh Kayajainian. They took their infant son to Armenia in 1909. A second son was born there the following year. Mardirok returned to America before 1915, Haighanoosh and the boys did not arrive until 1923. Madirok was admitted as a US citizen 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 1918

**Asdour/Asker/Oscar** 1909-1985 married Roxie and had four children. There is an oral interview of him talking about his life.

[https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog?commit=search&q=%22Kazanjian%2C+Oscar%2C+1909-%22&search\\_field=subject](https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog?commit=search&q=%22Kazanjian%2C+Oscar%2C+1909-%22&search_field=subject)

**John** 1910-1966 Unnamed on tree, married Victoria and had two children.

**Simon** born about 1883 Armenia. Arrived in America aged about 17, and was naturalized at Brookline, Mass in 1906. He worked in woolen mills, rubber shops, as a travelling salesman and in 1930 was a demonstrator for candy. He married Azniv Konyoumijian in 1921. There is

no record of children.

5) **BOGHOS** and his wife **Nonig** had three sons:

a) **Mugrdech** had three sons, and grandsons, but no information for any of them.

**Boghos**

**Yeghei** had three sons, but Pilibos knew the name of only one:

**Karnig**

**Hovannes**

b) **Serop** married Markarid Hagopian, and had three sons and a daughter

**Hovannes** no information, but advertisement from his brother Bedros suggests he died 1915

<http://markarlan.org/ArmenianImmigrants/Public-ViewDetail-ArmenianImmigrants-Ads.php?submit=View&Staging=&SourcePage=Public-ViewSummary-ArmenianImmigrants-Ads-ByLastNameStd-All&SelectLastNameStd=Kazanjian&argument1=EritassardHayastan-1919-10-18-1-0>

**Bedros/Peter** 1880-1963. On his WWI draft form, he names his wife, Anna, who was living in Harpout, Kestig, Turkey. The following year he advertised for her and their two children, Azad and Haigouhi. Also, his mother, Markarid, brother Hovannes, and his sister, Nonig and her child Arakel Nalbandian. They were not found. Some years later, Bedros married Parantzem Mary Tomasian, widow of Krikor Derderian, who had a son named James Hampartzoom Derderian. Bedros owned a grocery and butcher store in Providence RI. His son Serob/Sammy is on the tree, but not his daughter Alice/Armanordy.

**Serop** 1927-2003

**Alice** 1928-1978

**Boghos/Paul** 1879-1964 *This is likely to be Serob's son, but there is no definitive documentation.* He arrived in US 1900, is married to Margarete Garkis on his WWI draft.

They had a daughter Sarah in 1912. He settled in Philadelphia and had a grocery store there.

**Nounig** a daughter is not on the tree, but the advertisement from Bedros suggests she died 1915.

c) **Kerop** 1862-1914, arrived in US 1885, age 22, where he worked as a wire drawer in Worcester Mass. He applied for a passport the day he was naturalized in 1891 and returned to his homeland with the intention of bringing his family to live in America. But he stayed and died there in 1914, according to the passport application by his son Hamayag. Two of his three sons escaped the massacre. There is no information about his wife or third son.

**Karnig** no information

**Herant** 1898-1967 No record of arrival, but he was naturalized 1926. Worked as a silk dyer then making screw parts for machine manufacture. At age 65, married Sima Hatch in Fresno, CA where he died four years later.

**Hamayag** 1900-? Born in Kharpout, and next documented in France, aged 23. He knows nobody in Marseilles, and is applying for a passport to enter the US as a citizen. He is entitled to this because his father was a US citizen. There is an affidavit from his brother Hrand who residing in Hartford Conn. Two years later he married Sadie Arozian. He worked as a cabinet maker. They had two girls who are not on the tree, and a boy who was born in 1935, after the tree was drawn.

6) **GARABED** and unknown wife had two sons:

a) **Nazaret** no information

b) **Kirkor** *no documents definitely link him to the family*, but following, living generations confirm it.

There are two sons on the tree

**Angelo** no information

**Hagop/Jack** 1895-1968 born in Harpoot and immigrated in 1914. He married Altoon Deranian and his twin sons are on the tree, but not their two sisters who were born before 1930, or two more siblings, born later. On the 1930 census, four children are listed as

Charles, George, (twins) Alma and Margaret. Hagop was working as a stitcher at a shoe factory in Chelsea, Mass.

**Garabed** 1925-2005

**Kirkor/Kirk** 1925-2016

7) **SIMON** est dob 1845 and possible wife Anna Marderosian

*I have been unable to find any documents, or descendants to link them to the tree.*

a) **Sarkis**

b) **Bedros**

Simon

Asdour

c) **Mouses** 1865-? Possibly married Marion Ancott Hudson in 1910

d) **Yegnai**

## THE TWO CHILDREN OF YEGHASPET AHARONIAN

Section four of the tree

*I have no information about the Aharonians, and am guessing about these two children being from a previous marriage. this last name supplied by Bea; also Haig as informant at death of Pilibos.*

*No documents link Yeghsapet to the Aharonians that travelled on the Lusitania with Pilibos in 1907.*

1) **KHATOON** a daughter

2) **HAROUTEN**, and wife **SOOLTAN**

a) **Mardiros**

b) **Hovannes**

Karnig

c) **Garabed**

Herant

*I estimate Harouten was born about 1858 and possibly married to **Sultan Narjarian**. They had a son named **Garabed** about 1875. He may have married Clara Ricard Martin, but I cannot find any record of the son **Hrant** who is on the tree. I have not found records of the other two children or the grandchild.*

## THE FIVE CHILDREN OF HOVANNES AND YEGHASPET

Section five, the top of the tree, with one brother as trunk

1) **HAGOP**, born January 1860 the eldest perished in the 1915 genocide, as described by Pilibos, 1<sup>st</sup> married **Elizabeth/Eghsa Agorian** and had four sons:

a) **Palig**, on the tree Pilibos drew, but no other records

b) **Mihran Hagop** born in Armenia 1881 or 1884. He retired from Prudential Life Insurance Company. Died 1945 Connecticut. He immigrated to US 1900, and in 1910 was in Newport RI. Maybe working at the family store. He married first Dalita Khanjian and had one daughter, Victoria born about 1911, who married Edward Cecchin. No record of children. His second wife was Lavinia possibly last name Haveus, who had previously been married at age 17, to an unknown person. No record of children.

c) **Aram**, on the tree Pilibos drew, but no other records.

d) **Drtd/Trdat Hagop** born in Armenia 1892. Died 1966 Fresno, CA. He is the author of the tracing that Bea mentioned. He married 1<sup>st</sup> Helen Mamadjian in Georgia, and had two sons, Hagop and Eduard. He was unaware of the existence of Edourd as he had to escape the wrath of

Stalin. He went to America in 1934, and made one trip back to Georgia in 1944, which appears to have resulted in a divorce. He was a key person in the history of the First Republic of Armenia, alongside with Ruben Ter-Minasyan and Aram Manukian. His nickname was “Echmiadznezi” and he wrote a book “Fifteen Years in the Country of Bolsheviks,” published by "Hayrenik" in 1935 in Armenian. Today, some of his papers are kept in the National Archives of Armenia.

**Hagop**, dob 1918, married ?and his family still lives in Georgia.

**Eduard**, dob 1922 married in Moscow and has family in several countries.

**Drtad/Trdat Hagop 2<sup>nd</sup>** married another unknown Helen in Fresno sometime after 1944.

1) **HAGOP 2<sup>nd</sup>** married **Zemrout Ayzazian** and had six children.

Zemour and the children were deported in 1915, all but Haigaz eventually came to the US.

- a) **Haigaz** 1897-1915, married Satenig Muradian and had two daughters, Alice and Sona. From the story by Pilibos, Haigaz appears unaware of the second child. His wife and daughters all immigrated to the US.
- b) **Berj Hovian/Berdj** Harput 1897-1976 Massachusetts. Immigrated to US 1915. Married Eugenie Beland.
- c) **Yeprad Albert** Baghdad 1900-1955 Conn. Immigrated 1934. Married Edna Charley.
- d) **Araxie (Mayloun per Pilibos)** born in Harput 1901-1950 immigrated before 1928. She is omitted from the tree possibly because she had already married Madiros Krikor Mardirosian. They had a son named Aram Mardirosian.
- e) **Dekrees/Tigris Hagop** born Persia 1903-1969 Conn. immigrated 1927, married Claire Kirkjian. No record of children
- f) **Hasmig** Turkey 1907-1987 Conn. married Hagop Mahakian and had two daughters.

2) **BEDROS** born Harput, December 1860 died 1937 Conn. He arrived in US 1882, and started an import business in Newport RI and New York NY. Married **Haiganoosh Agharsian** 1895 in Constantinople. They had four children, all born in America. His sons and son-in-law continued the import business. They traveled extensively to China, Tibet, and Persia for their carpet business. One of the imported Chinese cabinets, filled with memories of life in the Armenian homeland fascinated Beatrice, Pilibos' first grandchild, and is currently owned by his great-grandson.

- a) **Sona Anahit** 1896-1988 married James F Gilkinson, who joined the family import business. He and Sona had three children, but they are not on the tree, as they are not Kazanjians.  
  - Alice Sona** 1918
  - Alice Jane** 1921-1979
  - James F Gilkinson Jr**, 1925 -2008
- b) **Bedros Jr** 1896-1957 was an international commercial traveler who married Barbara Suchotzki, at about age 60, and died a couple of years later, leaving his wife with two babies.
- c) **Andon** 1900-1985 married Lucy Kerslake and had one son,  
  - Gordon**, 1924-1972 born in China, married Patricia Ellison
- d) **Dikran** 1904-1987 married Irene Butler, and adopted her two sons, who were born in China. The family came back to settle in San Mateo when they were about high school age.

3) **HOVANNES** (section five of the tree trunk) 1865-1941 married **Haji Vart Harpootlian** in Armenia. They had four sons all born in Newport RI. The three older ones continued the family import business until it was sold in 1966.

- a) **Pavel/Powell Harold** 1897-1966 married Louise T Alexander and had four children.
- b) **Norman** 1900-1973 married 1<sup>st</sup> Helen Barlow who was mother of Norma, 2<sup>nd</sup> Elithia Fozzard.
- c) **John Hovannes Jr** 1904-1993 married 1<sup>st</sup> Norma Scannevin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alberta Copeland. No record of any children.
- d) **Reginald** 1906-? worked for the State Department. He was a peace activist, and at age 72, married a widow, the Princess Anna of Saxony aged 69. No record of any children.

- 4) **PILIBOS** 1869-1936 At age 17, he went to Newport RI to work with his brothers, but returned three years later to marry **Yeghsa Parigian** 1874-1962. He went back to US, leaving her with two babies, to earn his US citizenship. November 1907 the family immigrated together with five children and Asniv/Takhouie, probably half-sister of Yeghsa, but variously listed as a servant and daughter.
- a) **Kosrov (Carl)** 1892-1973 became an architect. Married 1<sup>st</sup> Gloria, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Rosa Milano and they had two children.
  - b) **Ardashes (Arthur)** 1893-1966, a dentist, married several times. Joan Fogarty is mother of four of his five children.
  - c) **Hayastan** an 1902-1980 married 1<sup>st</sup> Myron Koobation had two daughters. Beatrice his first grandchild, who grew up in the house with Pilibos, provided much of the information about this family. She is not on the tree as she did not have the Kazanjian surname. Hayastan married 2<sup>nd</sup> Krikor Baronian.
  - d) **John Hovannes Vanderbilt** Dec 1903-1973 a professional wrestler, known as Casey, and later rancher. He married Satenig Yezden and had three children.
  - e) **Haig Philip Jr** June 1907-1995 a pharmacist, married Mae Chadurjian and had two sons.
  - f) **Anahid (Diana)** 1913-2002 was born in California and married Uno Peterson. They did not have any children. She worked as a fashion designer.
- 5) **MARITZA** 1877-1936 the youngest child, married **Hagop Krikor Terzian**, a tailor, and had three children. She immigrated to US on *Rochambeau* in 1923 with Bedros/Henry and Nevart.
- a) **Tzavag**, est dob 1900 died of pneumonia, or flu, about 1918 after serving in the military.
  - b) **Bedros / Henry B** 1905-1981 a fitter for men's and ladies tailoring. He married Louise Euomurian and had two sons.
  - c) **Nevart H** 1907-1991 married Henry Nazarian, no record of any children.