

AXIOTES FAMILY HISTORY

Olympia B Fotopoulos came to America by boat on April of 1956. She came to relatives in New Jersey and stayed there for only a few days before coming to Omaha to live with her brother, Frank Fotopoulos, a Baptist minister. While living with him and his family, Olympia saw the Greek Orthodox Church at 602 Park Avenue and decided to go in. There she was greeted by Mr Nick Hatjinis who welcomed her to the church.

In her excitement to come to church to pray and meet more people, Olympia looked up names in the Omaha directory and found another listing for Fotopoulos, thinking they would also be relatives. When she spoke with Mrs Fotopoulos, she discovered that her English language lessons were very close to the Fotopoulos' house – arrangements were made to get together. It is at this house that Olympia met Petros Axiotes.

Petros A Axiotes (Axiotopoulos) had arrived from Greece just a few months before Olympia in late 1955. He had relatives in Sioux City, IA (Kazos family) and this is where he lived when he first arrived. He did sewing and was brought to Omaha to purchase a tailoring business with the help of Mr and Mrs John Stom. They were helpful and close to him since they were from the same village of Koroni, Messinia.

After just knowing each other for a few months, Petros and Olympia were married in Sioux City, Iowa at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church on November 30, 1958. After the wedding, the move to Omaha took place. Both worked at OK Cleaners and Tailor on 313 North 16th street, downtown Omaha. A first house was purchased near 31 & Pacific, a convenient location to the church.

First child born was Ekaterina (Katina) Petros Axiotes. Four years later, Margarita (Margaret) Petros Axiotes was born. Two years after her, Anastasia (Tasia) Petros Axiotes was born in Athens, Greece on a family vacation. Six years after that, Fotios (Frank) Petros Axiotes was born. All four children were baptized at St. John's Greek Orthodox Church in its current Park Avenue location. Koumbari include: Dr & Mrs Chris Fotopoulos of Kansas, Mr. & Mrs Gus Sinos of Omaha, Dr & Mrs Demetrios Halkias of Florida, and Mr and Mrs Fotios Axiotopoulos of Australia.

OK Cleaners and Tailors moved out of the downtown location to 36th & Center Street in 1975. The Axiotes family moved to a different home at 525 North 73rd Street in 1976. This is still the current home address.

Petros and Olympia were always involved in all church activities. They have been members for almost 50 years and have helped with the church board, Philoptochos, Daughters of Penelope, AHEPA, etc. Olympia has especially enjoyed working in the kitchen of the church, as well as her kitchen at home, for the benefit of St. John's – throughout the years and still today. The Axiotes children followed in their footsteps:

GOYA Presidents, members and cheerleaders, Maids of Athena, dance groups, and later Philoptochos and Daughters of Penelope members.

Katina married Joseph Gordon Rogers, MD in 1987. They have two children, Alexander and Kallista. Although living away in St. Louis, MO and now Chapel Hill, NC, both children were baptized in Omaha at St. John's Greek Orthodox Church.

Margaret married James Kenton Doan II in 1990. They have three sons, Demetrios (Jake), Vasili and Michael. Although living in Chicago, IL, New York, NY, Portsmouth, NH, Houston, TX, and Memphis, TN, all three children were baptized in Omaha at St. John's.

Anastasia married Nikolaos Spyridon Koliopoulos in 1996, whose family also immigrated to Omaha and came to St. John's Greek Orthodox Church. They have three children, Maria, Olympia and Spyridon (Spiro). All three children were baptized in Omaha at St. John's.

Frank married Shelley O'Keefe in 1998. They have two children, Zachary and Alexis. Both of them were also baptized in Omaha at St. John's.

The four Axiotes children were all married in Omaha at St. John's and all ten grandchildren were baptized in Omaha at St. John's, as previously mentioned. The Axiotes family holds St. John's Greek Orthodox Church deeply in their hearts and continues to be involved from near AND far.