

KRIN (KRITIKOS) & GARDEL-DULIN

Judging from the photographs taken during the early nineteen hundreds Charles Steve Krin had matinee idol looks. His 1941 naturalization certificate and photo confirm maintenance of that image and even at age 49 he stood five feet eight inches and weighed a trim 150 pounds. These superficial specifications produced neither an egotist nor a fop, however. He is remembered as a kind and patient man devoted to his family, faith and friends. His appearance and demeanor gave no hint of vicissitudes he and his family had suffered and he was neither heard to boast about his previous exploits nor to seek comfort for his afflictions.

Following the Greek custom of taking, or being given, a geographical name as a surname, the grandfather of Charles was born on the Island of Kriti (Crete), hence the name "Kritikos". No information has been found as to the original Cretan family name. The Kritikos name was probably assumed when the grandfather fled Crete then held by the Turks after an honor killing about which there is little evidence. He crossed over to Nicea Kalamata Greece, a tiny agricultural village, where Stavros Kritikos, the father of Charles, and Charles himself were born after Stavros married Anastasia Petrolakou. Stavros and Anastasia produced six children, three boys and three girls.

Stavros died when Charles was 14. The widow sent Charles, the eldest, to America to work and send sustenance money for his mother and siblings. A maternal uncle, Jimmy Lakis, was working in Grand Island, Nebraska and gave Charles employment as a cook on a Union Pacific track building crew in about 1905. In 1914, having faithfully sent money home, he returned to Greece to fight as a soldier in the Greek Army in World War I. Soon after, his unit was captured and for the next six years, Charles was a prisoner of war. After his release he returned to America and worked at a New Jersey Edison plant before settling in Omaha where he had relatives, including his mother's nephew Louis Kostos and relatives through marriage, namely, the Chiburis and Allivezos families.

Charlotte Genevieve Gardel Dulin Krin and Charles were married in 1927 in Omaha. Charlotte's parents were John Gardel, who was a native of Alsace Lorraine, and Dorothy Shipman, a Dane. Charlotte had been previously

married and had two children, Edward Dulin and Dorothy Dulin (both now deceased). Charles and Charlotte became the parents of James (Demetrios) Charles Krin, the present patriarch of the extensive Orthodox Christian Krin clan. Charles again took employment with the Union Pacific Railroad and worked there for many years. After renting for a few years, the Krins bought a house in tough economic times near 17th and Vinton. Charles had a steady job and could afford the ten dollar a month mortgage payment.

The Krin family, before and since, are enthusiastic godparents and sponsors for many Greek families in Omaha and the area. Charles became the godparent of George Stom of recent memory and sponsored George when he married Judy Stom and later followed through as godparent for Joe Stom, George and Judy's son, at his baptism.

Ample evidence of the Christian faith of Charles Stavros Kritikos is seen in his son and his grandchildren all of whom became baptized Orthodox Christians at St. John's Greek Orthodox Church. His great grandchildren have followed their parents into the faith. Charlotte was a devoted communicant of St. John's and no St. John's member is known to have worked more hours, volunteered more time, organized more dinners, or attended more services than Charles' son, Jim Krin. Along with Darlene and their children, their loyalty to the well-being of St. John's is unequalled in recent years. The Krins probably have less Greek blood than any supporters of St. John's save non-Greek converts. Their devotion to St. John's and Orthodox Christianity is not ethnic based, however. Rather, the sense of duty exhibited by Charles Krin to his church, to his homeland and to the United States is undiluted and reflected in his progeny. The very deserving Krins themselves have been unheralded but their presence is everywhere in the life of the church in Omaha, in Kansas City and at every church where there is a descendant of Charles Stavros Krin. But the sincerity of their belief cannot be questioned and the product of their activity is undeniable. The monetary contributions to St. John's and the societal and educational accomplishments of the second generation's four children, including two physicians, are many. More importantly, however, the Krin name will be ever synonymous with proper Orthodox Christian behavior outside the church, e.g., their involvement with non-Orthodox church and community groups in Omaha and the co-establishment of a clinic in Haiti (where she also contributes time and effort) by daughter, Dr. Elizabeth Krin Wickstrom.