

## POULOS

### Theodore and Olga (Unopoulos [Giannopoulos])

A great many of the communicants of St. John's Greek Orthodox Church, were residents of Council Bluffs, Iowa across the Missouri River. A strong church base membership remains in Council Bluffs, Iowa today. Among those St. John's continuous supporters early on was Ted Poulos of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Ted Poulos' birth name was Theodore Sussuras. An only son, he left the Turkish named Toposta village, after the death of his mother and the remarriage of his father to a widow with three daughters, and immigrated to America during World War I (1917). An uncle had loaned travel money so the young man could emigrate. Pursuant to Arcadian law mandating name changes of Turk names of villages to Greek names during the period 1931-1933, Toposta was renamed Theoktisto. Theoktisto is located in the North Central Peloponissos.

As with most immigrants of the times, Ellis Island in New York harbor was his entrance point to America. He traveled west and labored for the Union Pacific Railroad cleaning grain cars until he joined a cousin, Gust Poulos, in Council Bluffs. Many Greeks in the area were bootblacks, hat blockers and candy makers. For about a year, probably with money saved while working the grain cars, he opened a candy and tobacco shop in Clarinda, Iowa and then operated a shoe repair and hat cleaning shop before returning to become a Council Bluffs, Iowa resident permanently. In 1918, the Paris Bar and Billiards was opened by Ted in Omaha.

Olga Unopoulos lived with her parents Basili and Aristeia Unopoulos and Olga's sisters, Ruth and Alice in Webster City, Iowa. Basili and Aristeia had immigrated to America from Pyrgos, Ileas, Greece. Olga married Ted Poulos in 1923 in Council Bluffs, Iowa. There were three children as issue of the marriage: John, Toni and Billie. All are Greek Orthodox Christians.

During the thirty years Ted operated the Paris Bar and Billiards (and the five years owing the Tic Toc Bar and Billiards in Omaha), he and Olga were supporters and members of St. John's. Ted lived to the age of 78 and Olga passed away at age 98 in Council Bluffs, Iowa.