

# Preserving Kytherian Heritage

**www.kythera-family.net**

Imagine if a huge museum and cultural centre for Kythera were to be built, with room for thousands of heritage documents from Kytherians living on the island and those of Kytherian descent off the island. Where all things Kytherian – interviews, important historical documents, vintage family photo collections, old maps, family trees, a natural history collection, as well as modern artistic works like landscapes and creative writing etc. – were preserved and accessible for present and future generations. And the museum had an “open door” policy, gratefully accepting relevant material from families of Kytherian descent all over the world, so that others in the community had access to it. A museum which was arranged in such a way that the visitor could find things which would interest them within seconds of entering. Imagine if the it were open 24 hours a day and the entrance to it was in your own home. And what if the museum was also a place you could meet other people of Kytherian decent and compare your family trees and perhaps find that you are related to them? Or where your children and grandchildren could discover how rich and interesting and beautiful the island of their ancestors is?

That is a description of Kythera-Family.net, the online cultural archive for Kythera. It is one of the most important projects ever undertaken to preserve the heritage of our island. And one which needs your help to flourish.



*The home page of Kythera-Family.net is designed to take the viewer to areas of their interest easily. Entries can be found through a powerful search system, or via the Name or Village categories. New entries are displayed in the center of the page, and the navigation bar on the left gives access to over 40 subcategories. The site can also be displayed in Greek for the enjoyment of the island-based audience.*

# Our Goals

Kythera has changed enormously over the last century. The poor yet bustling agricultural society of the early 1900s has been transformed by mass emigration. Centuries old agricultural professions are rarely attractive alternatives to the younger generations on the island. These heritage traditions are foundation stones of all whose family can be traced back to Kythera, and in preserving them we strengthen our connection to our forebears and to ourselves.

Kythera-Family.net can be an ancestral album to all of us, as well as giving us a link to the island – past and present – even when we are far from it. It can connect long dead islanders to great-grandchildren on another continent whom they never lived to see, providing us all with a history few are lucky enough to know of.

## Guest Book entry from 21.10.2003

**Leone (Eleutheria) Jensen - Aarhus Denmark**

**Family village of origin: Karavas**

*"This is really a job well done, the website is a way for one like myself, to feel at home and keep in touch with Kythera, Greece and her children. I often feel nostalgic in this part of the world (Denmark) as I have no family, apart from my husband and 2 daughters, and there are not many Greeks living here and if so then I have not met any. What I really want to say is, thank you and keep up the good work."*

## Memories of '43

submitted by [Rowan Parkes](#)

30.10.2003

Late on a Wednesday evening I sat down with Mrs Pavlaki in the kitchen in her daughter's apartment in Potamos. The electricity had been wiped out in the area, so we sat in candlelight, talking and remembering. Mrs Pavlaki must surely be one of the most humorous people I know, her tinkling laughter and sparkling eyes flashed and filled the kitchen, as she bumbled over everything from her mother's cooking to the hungry years of '43. The very idea that I had come to hear some stories from her seemed absolutely hilarious to her, and it took a while for her to get started. Soon however, she was deep in '43...

"In '43 when the hounta were in charge we had no bread and no flour, but we were certainly luckier than some because, having animals, we also had enough dairy foods and plenty of meat, and we had wood for the fire. It really wasn't that bad! (tinkling laughter)

All the Athenian kids who had Kytherian heritage had come back to the island, as things were really bad in the city. I was sixteen. We all used to gather together in the cafes and perform, plays and songs and poetry. I played an island in a play (more tinkly laughter). The older boys were taken by the

*The oral history category on the site contains interviews and memoirs of people from the island. Memories which might have been lost forever are preserved here for the whole community.*

## Guest Book entry from 13.08.2003

**Spiro Coolentianos - Sydney Australia**

**Family village of origin: Christoforianika**

*"Congratulations on the launch of a great web site. This is a great way of ensuring the history of the island is kept and can be accessed for all to view. From what I can remember of my grandfather Panayoti Koulentianos (1880-1974) who ran the Barber shop in Potamos and who was Kythera's unofficial English translator, he would be very proud to see the heritage and stories being passed along to future generations."*

Photo: Distribution of school equipment, Karvounades, 1946. [add to Kythera Photographic Archive](#)

[< previous Photo](#) [overview](#) [next Photo >](#) [enlarge](#)



submitted by [Kythera Cultural Association](#) on 27.08.2003  
Copyright (2003) Kythera Photographic Archive

**Show only photos by this contributor**

Showing 21 - 30 from 37 entries

Distribution of school equipment, Karvounades, 1946. Unknown photographer: Distribution of school equipment to the children of Karvounades primary school. The crate of copybooks, pencils, etc. had been sent from New York by Christos Fatseas, and the contents are being distributed by the donor's sisters, Maria and Cryssoula. In attendance, Papa Pases and Papa Kourmoulis. Vintage silver gelatin print, 15x10.7 cm; original in the possession of Andreas Fatseas, Fatsadika. Ref. Number: KPA0017, Copyright (2003) Kythera Photographic Archive

Picture: Diakofti 1967 [add a modern landscape image](#)

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submitted by [Alexandra Ermolaev](#) on 23.10.2003

Showing 11 - 20 from 26 entries

This photo was taken by Maria Pentes on her first trip to Kythera in 1967. She was staying with her yiayia and papou in Diakofti, and spent most of her time swimming at this beach.. [email to a friend](#)

The Kythera Cultural Association has a collection of more than 2000 historically significant glass plate negatives which it is slowly digitising and uploading to the site. It also organises cultural events and publicises them through our website.

The photography section of the website is divided into 14 different categories to ease the search for pictures taken on and off the island. In the first six months online 300 pictures were submitted.

# Our Team

The Website Team leaders – Angelo Notaras, James Prineas and George Poulos – are responsible for the organisation, co-ordination and long-term viability of the site. They work without remuneration. An enthusiastic young collating team on and off the island is paid to conduct interviews, digitalise archives, and research valuable sources of Kytherian material.

Although many entries are submitted by visitors to the site from their family collections, it is necessary to employ an active team to gather material which would otherwise remain hidden from, or, at best, poorly accessible to the general public, e.g. vintage archives on the island, church records and private collections in the possession of people who don't have access to a computer.

Archive/Research

add to Archive

sorted by

1 2

Showing 1 - 11 from 11 entries

> Gerge Sofios tou Thedor...

> Some Early Kytherian A...

> Some Early Kytherian Ar...

> R-Z QLD 1916 Greek Census

> H-P QLD 1916 Greek Census

> A-G QLD 1916 Greek Census

> R-Z NSW 1916 Greek Census

> H-P NSW 1916 Greek Census

> A-G NSW 1916 Greek Census

> 1935-38 Greek Businessse...

> Microfilms of Parish an...

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Some Early Kytherian Arrivals in Australia

submitted by [Peter Tsicolas](#) 13.08.2003

**1873**  
Athanassios Dimitrios Comino (Skordili), b. 1844/48 Perlegianika, eldest son of Dimitri and Agapi (nee Menega), landed 1873.

**1884**  
Ioannis Dimitrios Comino (Skordili), b. 1854 Perlegianika, landed 1884 per "Potasi."

**1886**  
Zacharia Dimitrios Comino (Skordili), b. 5Mar1857 Perlegianika, landed Nov1886 per "Cassel."

**1888**  
Dimitrios Antonios Comino (Skordili), b. 1868/75 Perlegianika, son of Anthony Dimitrios and Theodora (nee Kalopaidou), landed 1888.

**1889**  
Peter Emmanuel Phacneas, b. 1860, landed 1889.

**1890**  
Evangelos Comino, b. 27Feb1868, landed 15Nov1890 per 'Emperor William.'  
Emmanuel Stratigos, b. 1871, landed 1890.  
Nick Stratigos, b. 28Oct1850, landed Dec1890 per the Orient Line.

**1891**  
Anthony Comino, b. 14Sep1869, landed 13Jun1891 per a German boat.  
Dimitrios Faros/Firos Comino, b. 20Jul1867 (or1866), landed 15Oct1891 per "Strathclyde."

In the archive/research category of the site dozens of documents listing hundreds of names of islanders in church records and migration-ship passenger lists can be found.

## Guest Book entry from 29.07.2003

**John Diacopoulos - Sydney Australia**

**Family village of origin: Karavas**

"A fascinating website already. My father Evangelos (Angelo) Diacopoulos migrated to Australia in 1914 and married Marigoula Aroney in 1938 and they spent their working lives in Gosford before moving to Sydney but of course as most Kytherians, always regarded Cerigo as their spiritual home. Some of that has rubbed off on their offspring. May the site continue to grow!"

## Guest Book entry from 10.07.2003

**Maria Londy - Hong Kong - Sydney (Australia)**

**Family village of origin: Mitata**

"Sinxharitiria kai kalo riziko! Words fail to capture the enthusiasm I felt as I perused the site. I particularly enjoyed reading the pages – oral history – on the Kytherians of the far north coast of NSW. It brought back fond memories of my early years, growing up in Casino. Indeed, a time to reflect on the past. I wish you every success in 'bringing to life' the history of the Kytherians of the diaspora!"

Map: 1690 Olfert Dapper

add to Vintage Maps

overview

next map >

enlarge

submitted by [Site Administrator](#) on 02.06.2003

Copyright (2003) Site Administrator

More maps by this contributor

Map from 1690 by Olfert Dapper, a dutch doctor who was much interested in far away lands and who was part of the second and third Dutch expeditions to China..

Picture: Loggerhead Skull, front view

< previous Picture

overview

enlarge

submitted by [Museum Administration](#) on 12.10.2003

Vintage maps of the island tell a story of their own. Are the inaccuracies of the older maps due to poor cartography or has the coast of the island changed significantly over the past 300 years?

The skull of a turtle featured in the Kythera Museum of Natural History section of the site. 185 entries fill the 10 categories within the section. It is a powerful display of the natural diversity of Kythera.

**"What better medium than the internet to reconnect the diaspora and revive the love of that sacred island – even in those who are yet unborn or unknowing of their connection to it."**

*Peter Coroneos, Chief Executive, Internet Industry Association of Australia*

## Our Help

Although the site is designed for anyone in the community to enter their family material themselves, we do provide a reasonably priced collation service if you are unable or lack the time to submit your family collection to the site yourself. One of our team of collators can visit you or your relatives at home and conduct an interview or scan your photographs or documents and not only upload them to the site, but also give you a CD-ROM of the collection for your own archives. It is also the perfect present for an elderly relative whose memories might one day be lost, giving them a chance to record their reminiscences for the whole family and indeed for the whole world. Please call Angelo Notaras (contact details below) to arrange an appointment with one of our collators. He can also give you information about the cost of a visit, which will depend on the extent of your family's collection and how many copies of the digitalised collection you wish to order.

## Your Support

The first stage of the development of Kythera-Family.net has been completed: we have a first class online cultural archive for the island. But just as a museum is only as good as its exhibits, our project needs financial support if it is to fulfil its promise, which is to be an active and expanding repository of historic, current and future heritage documents of the island of Kythera and of Kytherian culture in other countries. The internet offers the optimal platform for the preservation and dissemination of such an archive.

### **Your donations will help us to:**

- engage young Kytherian collators to collect material for Kythera-Family.net
- promote the site, creating a positive international image for the island
- digitalise and publish paper-based historical archives on the island
- capture the life-stories of elderly members of the Kytherian community
- allow Kytherians all over the world to find each other through the site
- finance the expansion of the site to include a children's section which will engage youngsters to learn about the island in a playful way
- secure the funding needed to maintain the site as the world's premier cultural archive

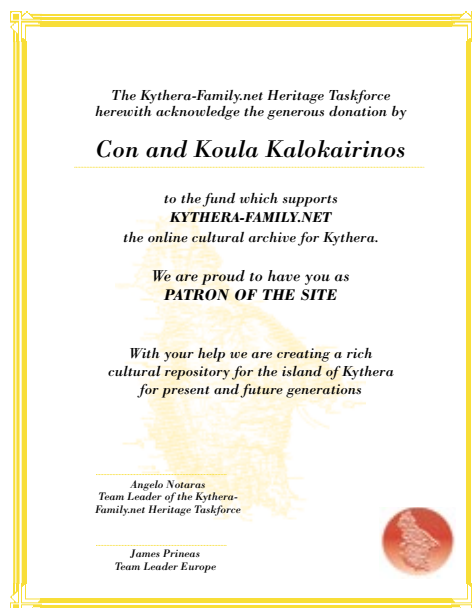
Your donation will be acknowledge on the website and with a beautiful certificate.

### **Cheques should be sent to:**

**The Kythera-Family.net Website**  
**Angelo Notaras, c/- Atom Industries**  
**9 Fred Street Lilyfield, NSW,**  
**2040 Australia**

**For more information about sponsoring**  
**Angelo can be contacted at:**

**Tel. Sydney (B) 02. 9810 0194 ,**  
**(H) 02. 9327 1628 , (Fx) 02. 9810 6691**



**kythera-family.net**

**for the world-wide Kytherian community**