



LAPITHOS
MUNICIPALITY

Lapithos news

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Great Martyr Anastasia of Rome (Farmakolytria) Church

On the occasion of the illegal declaration of the establishment of the pseudostate, the nine Displaced Municipalities and the 135 Displaced Communities of Cyprus held a series of events to condemn the declaration and promote the historic culture of our occupied territories.

Two separate but parallel events were held on 14 and 15 November, to mark the dreadful anniversary of the declaration of establishment.

The first event running on both days, 14 and 15 November 2019, was co-hosted by the Ministry for Education, Culture, Sports and Youth, Limassol Municipality and all displaced Municipalities and Communities of Cyprus in cooperation with the Cultural Services and the Press & Information Office.

In the framework of the event visitors had the opportunity to visit municipalities' and communities' pavilions set up in the Limassol Public Garden and find out more about the historic culture, tradition and folklore arts of our occupied homeland. The event attracted great interest and many visi-

tors, mainly students of schools in Limassol and wider area. The event was concluded



with a special event in the evening of 15 November at the Laniteion Highschool theatre condemning the declaration of establishment of the pseudostate in the presence of the Education Minister Mr Costas Habiaouris who also delivered the key note speech. Mayor of Lapithos Mr Neoptolemos Kotsapas and Mayor of Lefkonikou Mrs Zina Lyssandrou shared their personal experience of the invasion and the brutal displacement. Addresses were also made by the co-organisers, Limassol Mayor, the Director of the Media & Information and the Presidents of the Committees of Displaced Municipalities and Communities. In this address the President of

the Displaced Municipalities Mr Petros Kareklas noted: "...such an event should become an institution and take place every year in different regions of free Cyprus...", a point that Education Minister accepted and will be promoting.

The second series of events, 12-19 November, included various commemoration events of the prefecture of Kerynia with the participation of the municipalities of Kerynia, Lapithos and Karava, as well as Communities, Associations, Organisations and the three

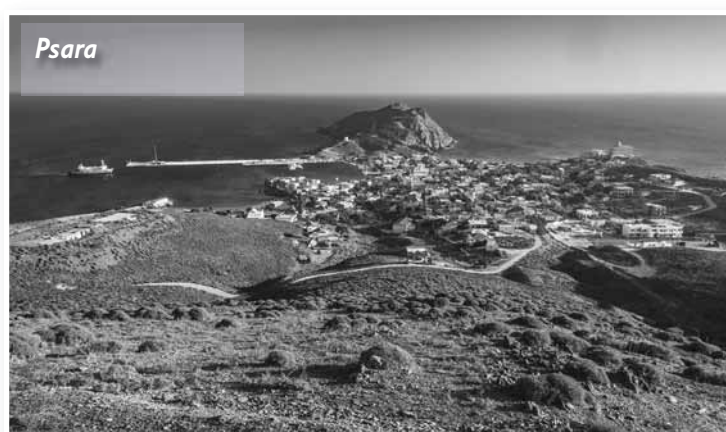
Youth Councils of the Kerynia prefecture. As part of the commemoration there were a number of interviews to radio and TV stations and a poster competition around the theme **"I live and Create in a free Cyprus"**. On 15 November a rally and torch relay was held in condemnation of the declaration of establishment of pseudostate, organised by the three Youth Councils of Kerynia, Lapithos and Karavas. The participants clearly stated their commitment to the liberation of our occupied homeland and our free return.

*The Mayor of Lapithos Mr. Neoptolemos Kotsapas,
the Members of the Lapithos City Council and the Municipality Personnel,
together with the Presidents and the Members of Organized Bodies
of our town wish you all:
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021.
Wish you also full of Health, Happiness, Peace and Freedom to our country Cyprus*



Unknown pages in Cyprus history

Constantinos Kanaris visited Cyprus and sailed to Greece off Lapithos in 19 June 1821



Lapithos elderly accounts that have reached us through generations, confirm that Constantinos Kanaris sailed off Lapithos in the evening of 19 June 1821 rather than at a later date as suggested by some researchers.

Both the detailed accounts by the Lapithos elderly and the actual facts of the period prove this point beyond any doubt.

Archbishop Kyprianos, Hadjielias, Georgios Paspallas, Hadjiloizou, Hadjinikolis, Legate Alexandros, Mouskoudis and many more of the Lapithos and Karavas elderly, whose names were clearly linked to the Kanaris' visit, were executed on 9 June 1821, 5 years earlier than Kanaris visit estimated date.

According to the history of these families we now know they were well respected and well known families of Lapithos, honourable and well educated who took pride in sharing the legacy of their predecessors' heroic role in the National Struggles.

However, regardless of how strong and substantiated oral accounts are, they tend to fade through time, leaving gaps and destroy evidence. Unfortunately, this is also the case of Kanaris visit to Lapithos since there had been no written record of it at the time by a Lapithos resident closely involved in it. So today we do have an idea through several anecdotal records which do support the same narrative with very limited and unsubstantiated exemptions.

Well known writers such as Georgios I. Kipiadis, Kostas Siakallis, Chr. Livas, Ar. V. Charalambides, K. Fylaktou, G. Paspalla descendants known as Kramvies, Hadjielias' descendants (Postanoi, Pipyroi, Paraskevaides, Kospaidjides, Digenides, Constantinidides) as well academic Epameinondas Eliadis confirm the reasons why June 1821 is the actual historic date of Kanaris's visit. Additionally, the Lapithos Church registries, and particularly the registries of the churches of Aghia Paraskevi and Aghios Loukas that had been available for many years after 1821, offer significant information.

Constantinos Kanaris was born in Psara island in 1793 (Hellenic Navy records) and he was raised there too. He was the younger son of Psara elderly Michael Kanarios and Maro Boureka. At a very young age Constantinos lost his father and was forced to work as ship crew on family vessels, mainly those of his uncle's. He became a captain at the young age of 20. As time went by Kanaris, as he became known, grew very proud of his origin; he used to say "I am a Psara native; my line and my family starts from me here in Psarra".

Married to Despina Maniati, the daughter of a wealthy Psara family, the couple had seven children: Nikolaos (1818), Themistocles (1819), Thrassyvoulos (1820), Miltiades (1822), Lykourgos (1826),

Maria (1828) and Aristides (1831). Over 18 years of marriage they lost 5 of their 7 children; three sons died in battle and 2 died abroad).

Kanaris died on 2 September 1877 whilst still serving in office as Prime Minister. He was buried close to the entrance of the Athens First Cemetery opposite to the Tositsas' monument.

His residence, 56 Kypselis Street, was close to Kypseli Square which was renamed in Kanari Square.

Constantinos Kanaris was a Greek freedom fighter, bold and courageous who became one of the most significant figures of the Greek Independence Struggle at sea.

Despite that Kanaris action between 1823 and 1824 reached the Asia Minor coast, the fact that he failed to defend Psarra against Ottoman Hosref Muhammad Pasha who burnt the island to the ground. It appeared that the key reason of the Ottomans' victory was the rift amongst Hellenic Navy and the consequent lack of coordination which had an overall impact on the successful outcome of the Greek Independence Struggle.

Still, ever after the end of the Struggle Kanaris used to greatly regret this period and to note that he was deeply embarrassed by the sad and abominable incidents that degraded Hellenic Nations dignity. Although he served his country for decades as a high ranking politician, he was always concerned about the conflict, the passions the divisions amongst Greeks; he used to say "...my Greek brothers, there is place for everyone of us in this country of ours; let's not become a toy for the foreigners to use..."

Constantinos Kanaris served four times as Greece's Prime Minister; he was actually Greek Premier during the 1844-1864 Constitutional revisions. He gained reputation outside Greece and his heroic personality inspired Victor Hugo, Lord Byron, Thomas Gordon and many more. But even those who are not familiar with this successful political career, they certainly know him as the glorious admiral, and fearless Sea Warrior.

In our next edition and closer to the 200 anniversary of Kanaris' visit to Lapithos, we will continue our article with more details about unknown pages in Cyprus history and the events of that period.

