

## *Varsamas (“Victor”) Nikolaos Polizos*

He was the seventh of nine children, the third son of Nikolaos Polizos and the first of three sons born to Nikolaos’ third wife Alexandra (“Alexandro”) Angelí. He was probably named after his maternal grandfather.

---

**Varsamas** Polizos was a man remembered for his strong handshakes, playing the harmonica and the *santouri*, his hobby of fishing (photo), and enjoying a glass of red wine with dinner.

### Timeline:

|                                      |      |            |  |
|--------------------------------------|------|------------|--|
| Jan. 31 - Wed.<br>or Jul. 13 - Tues. | 1877 |            | <b>Varsamas</b> was born in his mother’s home, in the village of Ano (Upper) Klima on the island of Skopelos, Greece.  |
| Sept. 15                             | 1883 | 6 yrs old  | <b>Varsamas</b> ’s future wife, Ourania Konstantinos Fivya, was born in Ano Klima, Skopelos across the village lane from his house.<br><b>Varsamas</b> learned to read and write from his uncle Andonis (his father’s brother) while working on a family boat. |
|                                      | 1903 | 26 yrs old | <b>Varsamas</b> lived in Pensacola, FL for several years at the same time as his younger brother, Ioannis. They owned a fruit stand together for some time. Most fruit stands were located on Garden St. or Chase St.  |

### The following information has been obtained from the Pensacola Historical Society using the Residence and Business directories of that time:

The first Polizos family members were located in the Pensacola directory in 1896. Their names were Thomas **Poleazo** and Antionia (probably Andonis) **Pollizzo**. Thomas lived and works at 407 S. Palafox and Antionia lived and worked at 507 S. Palafox. Both listed their occupations as “Fruits and Confection”.

In 1898, three names appeared in the directory. All lived and worked at their stated addresses. Antionia now listed his name as “Antonio **Polizo**” and lived at the same address. A Constantine **Polizo** was listed at 300 W. Government and Thomas **Polizo** was now listed at 703 S. Palafox. All three names were listed under both “Fruits” and “Confectioners”.

In 1903, Antonio **Polizo** continued to live and work under the title “Fruits” at 507 S. Palafox. An Apostle **Polizo** lived with Antonio. A Nick **Polizo** lived and was listed under the employment title “Fruits” at 800 N. Alcaniz. Thomas **Polizo** continued to live and be listed under the employment description “Fruits” at 407/409 S. Palafox.

In 1905, a Varsama **Polejo** lived at 407 S. Palafox and listed under the employment title “Fruits”. Nick **Polozo** lived at 218 E. Gadsden and worked under the employment title “Fruits” at 30 S. Palafox. This was also the same year that Konstantinos, Varsama’s brother, arrived in America.

In 1907, 1908, and 1909, we found V. **Polizo** and Co. listed under “Fruits” at 407 S. Palafox. The company consisted of Victor **Polizo** and Nick Mitchell. Victor’s home was listed at the

same address under **Versama Polizo**. Also in 1908, Constantine **Polizo** (Varsama's brother) was listed as living at 10 S. Palafox and worked as an Oyter Opener at H.G. Jacobson. In 1909, John **Fever** (Fivyas) was listed as living with Victor at 407 S. Palafox.

In 1909, the Annunciation of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church of Pensacola, FL was created. The church had an initial membership of 120 people. Within that membership were eight families. The church building was completed on Aug. 17, 1910 on the NE corner of Wright St. and Reus St. The parish priest's home was soon built next door. The church remained there for 42 years until June of 1952. The first priest brought to Pensacola in May 1911 was the Reverend Father Joakim Georges. He was from the island of Hydra, Greece and served until Nov. 16, 1918 when he passed away from the pandemic Spanish Flu. Varsmas was probably a founding member of this church.

In 1910 and 1911, V.N. **Polizo** lived and worked at 407/409 S. Palafox. He was also listed as Victor N. **Polizo** living at 407 S. Palafox. Constantine **Polizo** lived at the same address as V.N. **Polizo** and was listed under "Grocery" at 2 S. Tarragona. John **Fivyas** also lived with V.N. **Polizo**. In 1910, Angelo **Angeletos** was listed under the employment title "Confections" and lived at 423 N. DeVilliers.

In 1913, Victor **Polizo** continued to live and work at 407 S. Palafox.

In 1916, Victor had the same information listed. John **Polizo** and Jennie (Evyenia) lived and worked as grocers at 823 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. John and brother George **Fevgas** (Fivyas) also lived and worked at a restaurant at 413 S. Palafox.

In 1919 and 1920, Charles **Polijo** (Polijo and Co.) worked at a restaurant at 127 E. Wright and lived at the Southern Hotel. The Polijo Co. included Charles, John Demos, and Alex Salomis. Additionally, there was a John **Polijo** who lived at 51 E. Chase and was the proprietor of The Famous Restaurant.

In 1921, Charles **Polizo** (Diomes & Polizo) was listed as living at 49 E. Chase.

|                    |      |            |   |
|--------------------|------|------------|---|
| <i>December 17</i> | 1903 | 26 yrs old | <i>Wright Brothers first powered flight, Kittyhawk, NC</i> <a href="http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/wright.htm">http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/wright.htm</a>  |
|                    | 1906 | 29 yrs old | <b>Varsamas</b> became a naturalized American citizen. He later obtained his Social Security Number: 420-36-2827.   |
| <i>July 22</i>     | 1907 | 30 yrs old | <b>Varsamas</b> married Ourania Konstantinos Fivya in Ano Klima, Skopelos and moved into the house in which she was born.   |
| <i>July 4</i>      | 1908 | 31 yrs old | <b>Varsamas</b> 's daughter, Kerasia ("Keratso"), was born. She was the first of seven children, all born in their maternal home in Ano Klima. Kerasia was baptized by Alexandra ("Alexandro") Mihilis, from Glossa (Alexandra was <b>Varsamas</b> 's older half-sister). |
| <i>October 18</i>  | 1912 | 35 yrs old | <b>Varsamas</b> 's father, Nikolaos Polizos, died in Ano Klima.   |
|                    | 1912 |            | <i>Balkan Wars Begin</i> <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkan_Wars">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkan_Wars</a>  |
| <i>August 10</i>   | 1913 |            | <i>Balkan Wars End</i>  |
|                    | 1915 | 38 yrs old | <b>Varsamas</b> 's wife Ourania delivered twins. The first infant, a girl named Alexandra, died a few hours after birth. The second infant was a stillborn boy. Alexandra was baptized by her paternal grandmother Alexandra.   |
| <i>July 2</i>      | 1917 |            | <i>Greece enters World War I</i> <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkans_Campaign_%28World_War_I%29">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkans_Campaign_%28World_War_I%29</a>  |

|                    |             |            |   |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|---|
| November 17        | 1917        | 40 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's wife Ourania delivered her second set of twins, Nikolaos and Anthoula. Nikolaos was baptized by Alexandra ("Alexandro") Mihilis ( <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's older half-sister) from Glossa. Anthoula was baptized by Andromahi ("Mahi") Efstathios Karastathis, from Mahala / Glossa.   |
| <i>November 11</i> | <i>1918</i> |            | <u><a href="#">World War I Ends</a></u><br><a href="#">Varsamas</a> became partners with his future "Simbethero"/ in-law, Dimitrios Stamatios Hiras on Dimitrios' merchant boat, the <i>Panormiti</i> .   |
| May 4              | 1920        | 43 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's son, Konstantinos ("Dino, Gus"), was born. He was baptized by Foutoulakis, a Cretan police officer stationed in Glossa.   |
|                    | 1922        | 45 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> baptized (and therefore became the godfather of) Anna Dimitrios Hiras.   |
| June 13            | 1922        |            | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's last child, Alexandra, was born. She was baptized by a customs officer from the island of Skyros named Anastasios ("Anesti") Baloutis and his wife Mercini ("Mirka").<br><a href="#">Varsamas</a> probably knew them through his shipping business.   |
| <i>September</i>   | <i>1922</i> |            | <u><a href="#">Smyrna, Asia Minor falls to the Turks, Hellenic population is ousted from the region forever.</a></u><br><u><a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Fire_of_Smyrna">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Fire_of_Smyrna</a></u>  |
|                    | 1924        | 47 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's daughter Kerasia ("Keratso"), at the age of 16, became engaged to Konstantinos ("Gus") Diamandis Berdanis.  |
|                    | 1925        | 48 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> left for America and stayed for 11 years. His wife Ourania would never leave Greece. Periodically, <a href="#">Varsamas</a> would send money home to Ourania through friends or relatives. Ourania did not know how to read or write so her daughters helped her to sign her name on the checks. <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's son Gus later recalled wondering if Ourania received the correct amount of money for her checks.  |
| July 29            | 1927        | 50 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's brother Konstantinos died in a car accident between Greenwood and Cleveland, MS, at the age of 39. Konstantinos had immigrated to America on the S.S. <i>L'Aquitaine</i> at the age of 19 with \$15 in his pocket. The boat left La Havre, France on April. 29, 1905 and arrived in New York City on May 9. According to the ship's manifest, his father paid for the ticket, and his final destination was Pensacola, FL to meet <a href="#">Varsamas</a> .                |
| <i>May 20</i>      | <i>1927</i> |            | <u><a href="#">Charles Lindbergh completes first trans-Atlantic flight</a></u> <u><a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Lindbergh">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Lindbergh</a></u>   |
|                    | 1928        | 51 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's family had a two-story home built for their daughter Kerasia ("Keratso"). This house would become part of her dowry (photo).<br>Houses were built mostly from local stone and mud. The occasional use of wood in home construction was local cyprus or imported chestnut wood from Ayio Oros (Mount Athos). This wood was carried up to the village from the harbor on the backs of construction workers. The doors and windows were made locally or shipped in from Volos. |
| September 29       | 1929        | 52 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's daughter Kerasia ("Keratso"), at the age of 21, married Konstantinos ("Gus") Diamandis Berdanis in her new house in Ano Klima. In that era, weddings were allowed to be performed in the family homes. Their <i>koumbaros</i> was Ioannis ("John") Sideris. <a href="#">Varsama</a> 's sons Dino and Nick, in accordance with the local custom, Were asked to kiss the <i>stefania</i> (wedding crowns) during the wedding so that the newlyweds would have male offspring. |

|          |      |            |   |
|----------|------|------------|---|
|          |      |            | Varsama himself was not present. He was living in America. This was the only child whose wedding he did not attend.   |
| June 19  | 1930 | 53 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's first grandchild, Ourania ("Nina") Konstantinos Berdanis, was born in her mother's home in Ano Klima. She was later baptized by Ioannis ("John") and Kalliope Sideris.  |
|          | 1930 |            | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> , along with Paul Collins and his brother-in-law George Fivvas established The Post Office Café of Hollandale next to the Post Office of Hollandale, MS. It changed locations to the middle of the main street, around the corner, for a few years and later, in 1937, finally moved down the main street to another corner location. Once at its corner location, the restaurant added curbside services ("car-hops"). In 1932, the co-founder George Fivvas sold his share of the restaurant to Paul and <a href="#">Varsamas</a> and left for Greece. <a href="#">Varsamas</a> sold his share to return to Greece in February of 1936. In April of 1938, then-owner (and Varsama's other brother-in-law) John Fivvas sold half of the restaurant to Varsama's sons Gus and Nick Polizos for a total of \$3,500. |
|          | 1934 | 57 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's family built a two-story house for their daughter Anthoula next door to their daughter Kerasia's house as a part of her dowry. This house later became Varsama's daughter Alexandra's home due to a swap between the two sisters. The upstairs of this house was the site of two of Varsama's children's weddings in 1948, Alexandra and Konstandinos.  |
| November | 1934 |            | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's son, Nikolaos ("Nick"), moved from Skopelos at the age of 17 to Hollandale, MS. Nick was eight years old when his father left for Greece. <a href="#">Varsamas</a> saw him for the first time in nine years.  |
| October  | 1935 | 58 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's son, Konstantinos ("Dino, Gus"), moved from Skopelos at age 15, to Hollandale, MS. Gus was five years old when his father left for Greece. Varsama saw him for the first time in ten years.   |
| February | 1936 |            | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> sold his half of the Post Office Café (of Hollandale). He then visited Nick in Corinth, MS, left Gus in Cleveland, MS, and returned to Greece.<br>At about the time of his return, the family added a kitchen onto their existing ancestral home in Ano Klima. The kitchen was attached, yet separate from the house.  |
| July     | 1937 | 60 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's daughter Anthoula became engaged to Konstantinos Ioannis Manolios.  |
| October  | 1937 |            | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's daughter Kerasia ("Keratso") moved from Skopelos to Cleveland, MS with her daughter Ourania ("Nina"), her <i>koumbara</i> , Kalliope Sideri, and her <i>koumbara</i> 's son, Gus (photo).   |
|          | 1938 | 61 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's family had an <i>apothiki</i> (storage shed) built next to their daughters' homes.  |
| July 28  | 1938 |            | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's daughter Anthoula, at the age of 20, married Konstantinos Ioannis Manolios in Ano Klima. Their <i>koumbara</i> was Anthoula's first cousin, Ourania ("Nina") Fivva Christou. Konstantinos was originally from the island of Skyros and was brought to Skopelos as a young boy. He was adopted by the Glinis couple (neighbors with the Polizos family) who had no children. After his wedding, he decided to make his official last name his biological   |

parents' family name: "Manolios". He stayed close to both of his adopted parents, both of whom died after World War II.

Konstantinos's sister Anna, who remained unmarried all of her life, lived with Anthoula until her death at age of 82.

The newlyweds lived in the house which was a part of Anthoula's dowry and about three years later, they moved into Ourania's house (the house Anthoula was born in) to be closer to her husband Konstantinos's parents. Ourania and [Varsamas](#) moved into Kerasia's vacant house with their youngest daughter Alexandra.

May 17 1940 62 yrs old [Varsamas's](#) brother-in-law, Ioannis Konstantinos Fivyas, died of a heart attack in a hospital in Greenville, MS at the age of 52 (article).

October 28 1940 *Greece enters World War II with the Italian invasion into Epiros from Albania. The church bells of the island toll solemnly to inform the people. All contact with America ceases during the war.*  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greco-Italian\\_War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greco-Italian_War)

December 8 1940 63 yrs old [Varsamas's](#) grandchild, Ourania ("Nina") Konstantinos Manoliou, was born in Ano Klima while her father Konstantinos was fighting the Italian invaders on the Albanian border between August 1940 and May 1941.

April 28 1941 *Athens, Greece falls to Germans.*  
Both of [Varsamas's](#) sons served in the US armed forces.

December 26 1941 64 yrs old [Varsamas's](#) brother-in-law, Yeoryios Konstantinos Fivyas, died of pneumonia / TB in his home in Ano Klima. He was 59 yrs old.

April 1943 66 yrs old [Varsamas's](#) brother Apostolos died in Glossa at the age of 74.

1943 [Varsamas's](#) mother Alexandra ("Alexandro") Angeli Polizou died in Ano Klima at the age of 94. She outlives her husband by 31 yrs, her son, Konstantinos, and two of her grandchildren. Granddaughters Anthoula and Alexandra, before they got married, would often spend nights sleeping at their grandmother's house for companionship.

1943 [Varsamas](#) was taken, along with his boat the *Skilitsa* (the name of the boat's original owner) by the German military to Corinth, Greece. He would never see his wife again. He spent four to six months doing forced labor, mostly loading and transporting wood. The *Skilitsa* was later given to daughters Anthoula and Alexandra as a part of their dowry. [Varsamas's](#) son Gus later sent \$200 to his sister Anthoula to help her buy out Alexandra's share of the boat.

November 4 1943 [Varsamas's](#) wife Ourania was upset when she accidentally spilled a bunch seeds and beans in her home, mixing all of them together. She spent the whole day trying to separate them. That evening, she suffered a stroke.

November 5 1943 [Varsamas's](#) wife Ourania died of a stroke in her daughter Kerasia's home in Ano Klima, Skopelos. She was surrounded by her daughters, other family members, and close friends. She was buried the next day in the village cemetery behind the church of Ayii Anaryeri. She was married for 37 years.

[Varsamas's](#) daughter Alexandra now lived in the house alone. Her aunt Evyenia ("Evyenio") Ioannis Polizos, from Glossa, would come and stay with her for several days at a time.

|             |      |            |  |
|-------------|------|------------|--|
|             |      |            | One evening, German soldiers came through the village and knocked on their door. They said something in German which Alexandra and her aunt did not understand. Upon receiving no response, the Germans left. The soldiers had a small camp in the nearby harbor of Loutraki and usually did not come into the village.  |
| November    | 1943 |            | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> returned to Ano Klima. He missed his wife's funeral by three weeks.   |
| March       | 1944 | 67 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's mother-in-law, Kerasia ("Keratso") Fivya, died in Ano Klima at the age of 85. She saw her husband, all three of her children, a daughter-in-law, and two of her grandchildren die in her lifetime. She had three sisters (Eleni, Mariyo and another one in Skopelos) and one brother.  |
| October 31  | 1944 |            | <u><i>Last German troops evacuate mainland Greece in World War II, the church bells of the island ring joyfully to inform the people. Greece immediately enters into a brutal four year civil war. The island does not escape some of the trauma of these events.</i></u>  |
|             | 1946 |            | <u><i>Earthquake damages Kato Klima.</i></u>   |
|             | 1946 |            | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's daughter Alexandra became engaged to Vasilios Athanasios Kotsovelos, a law student from Vitina, Peloponnese.   |
| June        | 1946 | 69 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> travelled to America with his daughter Alexandra on the <i>Marine Carp</i> . They would return to Greece on the same ship ( <a href="http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/m4/marine_carp.htm">http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/m4/marine_carp.htm</a> ). This ship has been an army transport ship during the war. All aboard slept in cots, 20 per room, with men and women separate.  |
|             |      |            | They visited for 11 months. This was 10 years after <a href="#">Varsamas</a> left Mississippi for Greece. They arrived in New York City and took the train to Washington D.C. They visited with Nikolaos Apostolis Polizos, <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's nephew, and stayed there for three days. They continued by train to Atlanta and are met at the train station by <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's son Nick and his fiancé, Caliope. After visiting for a few hours only, they continued by train to Montgomery, AL and arrived that evening. They stayed with <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's daughter Keratso for the majority of their visit. That same day, Keratso received a phone call from Laurel, MS informing her that their friend and fellow villager, Paul Collins, had died. They all attended his funeral in MS. |
| September 1 | 1946 |            | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> attended the wedding of son Nikolaos, age 29, to Calipoe ("Callie") Nikolaos Moraitakis in Atlanta, GA. Their <i>koumbaros</i> was Nikolaos John Mitchell (Amygdalitsis).   |
| July 1      | 1948 | 71 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> attended the wedding of his daughter Alexandra, age 26, to Vasilios Athanasios Kotsovelos in her house in Ano Klima. Their <i>koumbaros</i> was her brother, Konstantinos <a href="#">Varsamas</a> Polizos.   |
| October 10  | 1948 |            | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> attended the wedding of his son Konstantinos ("Dino, Gus"), age 28, to Kokitsa ("Kiki") Dimitrios Hirra in his daughter Alexandra's home in Ano Klima. Their <i>koumbara</i> was Gus's first cousin, Ourania ("Nina") Fivya Christou.   |
| Fall        | 1955 |            | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> visited America for about 1½ yrs.   |
|             | 1955 |            | <u><i>Large Earthquake destroys Volos and the neighboring island of Alonissos.</i></u>   |
| December 5  | 1955 | 78 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's sons Nick and Gus, along with nephew, Vick Fivgas, opened <i>Riviera Restaurant</i>  |

|              |      |            |  |
|--------------|------|------------|--|
|              |      |            | <i>and Monte Carlo Lounge.</i> The night before the grand opening, <a href="#">Varsamas</a> and his sons Gus and Nick ate the restaurant's first meal: Spanish Mackerel. <a href="#">Varsamas</a> helped part-time in the restaurant by chopping lettuce for salads into a special lettuce container. (photo). |
| Spring       | 1957 | 80 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> attended his granddaughter Magdalene's baptism before leaving America to return to Greece.  |
| September 16 | 1959 | 82 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's last grandchild Ourania ("Renee") Polizos, was born in Montgomery, AL. <a href="#">Varsamas</a> saw all of his grandchildren in his lifetime.  |
|              | 1962 |            | Visited America for the last time.   |
| March 9      | 1964 | 87 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> 's brother, Anastasios Polizos, died in Glossa, Skopelos at the age of 93.  |
|              | 1965 |            | <u><i>Earthquake damages Ano Klima and the process of moving inhabitants to the newly established village of Klima/Elios in the 1980s begins.</i></u>  |
| November 12  | 1966 | 89 yrs old | Brother, Ioannis Polizos died in Glossa, Skopelos at the age of 83.  |
| April 21     | 1967 |            | <u><i>Military Junta takes control of the Greek government establishing a dictatorship.</i></u><br><a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_military_junta_of_1967-1974">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_military_junta_of_1967-1974</a>   |
| July 20      | 1969 |            | <u><i>Neil Armstrong walks on the Moon.</i></u> <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollo_11">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollo_11</a><br><a href="#">Varsamas</a> lived the last few years of his life with his daughter Anthoula and granddaughters in Volos.   |
| September 13 | 1970 | 93 yrs old | <a href="#">Varsamas</a> died in Volos, Greece. He outlived his wife by 27 years.  |

As of: August 7, 2009

---

Note: [Varsamas](#)'s name is spelled as 'Valsama' by both of his grandsons Vic and Victor in America.