



## *Ourania Konstantinos Fivya Polizou*

She was the second of three children, the only daughter born to Konstantinos Fivyas and Kerasia ("Keratso, Tsitso") Elias Koutrouli. She was named after her maternal grandmother.

### Timeline:

September 15 Saturday	1883	<p><b>Ourania</b> was born in her mother Kerasia's home, in the village of Ano (Upper) Klima, on the island of Skopelos, Greece. This home later became part of her wedding dowry. All of her children were born in this same house, which was located across the village lane from her future husband Varsamas and mother-in-law Alexandra's ("Alexandro") home.</p> <p>She was baptized by Ioannis Florou and his wife, Alexandra Polizou from Glossa (the first cousin of her future husband, Varsamas Polizos).</p>
	1889	<p>6 yrs old She did not attend school. Her father, Konstantinos, did not see the value of an education for women. <b>Ourania</b> would never learn how to read or write.</p>
July 22	1903 1907	<p>20 yrs old <b>Ourania's</b> future husband, Varsamas, moved temporarily to Pensacola, FL.</p> <p>23 yrs old <b>Ourania</b> married Varsamas Nikolaos Polizos in Ano Klima and they lived together in the house she was born in.</p>
July 4	1908	<p>24 yrs old <b>Ourania's</b> daughter, Kerasia ("Keratso"), was born. She was the first of their seven children, all of whom were born in their maternal home in Ano Klima. Kerasia was baptized by Alexandra ("Alexandro") Mihilis (Varsamas's older half-sister) from Glossa.</p>
October 18 August 10	1912 1912 1913	<p>29 yrs old <b>Ourania's</b> father-in-law Nikolaos Polizos died in Ano Klima.</p> <p><u><i>Balkan Wars Begin</i></u> <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkan_Wars">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkan_Wars</a></p> <p><u><i>Balkan Wars End</i></u></p>
	1914	<p>31 yrs old <b>Ourania's</b> brother, Yeoryios Fivyas, married Kokitsa Delí. <b>Ourania</b> was the <i>koumbara</i> in their wedding and later baptized their firstborn, Konstantinos Fivyas.</p>
	1915	<p>32 yrs old <b>Ourania</b> 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.</p>
July 2 November 17	1917 1917	<p>34 yrs old <u><i>Greece enters World War I</i></u> <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></p> <p><b>Ourania</b> delivered her second set of twins, Nikolaos and Anthoula. Nikolaos was baptized by</p>

			Alexandra ("Alexandro") Mihilis (Varsamas's older half-sister) from Glossa. Anthoula was baptized by Andromahi ("Mahi") Efsthathios Karastathis, from Mahala / Glossa.
November 11	1918		<u>World War I Ends</u>
May 4	1920	36 yrs old	<a href="#">Ourania's</a> son, Konstantinos ("Dino, Gus"), was born. He was baptized by Foutolakis, a Cretan police officer stationed in Glossa.
	1920		<a href="#">Ourania's</a> brother Ioannis ("John") Fivyas married Maria ("Mariyo") Diamandis Kostandaki. <a href="#">Ourania</a> was the <i>koumbara</i> in their wedding and later baptized their daughter, Anaryeri Fivya.
June 13	1922	38 yrs old	<a href="#">Ourania's</a> 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"). Her husband Varsamas probably knew them through his shipping business.
September	1922		<u><a href="#">Smyrna, Asia Minor falls to the Turks. Hellenic population is ousted from the region forever.</a></u> <u><a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Fire_of_Smyrna">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Fire_of_Smyrna</a></u>
	1924	40 yrs old	At the age of 16, <a href="#">Ourania's</a> daughter Kerasia ("Keratso") became engaged to Konstantinos ("Gus") Diamandis Berdanis.
	1925	41 yrs old	<a href="#">Ourania's</a> husband Varsamas left for America and stayed for 11 years. <a href="#">Ourania</a> never left Greece in her lifetime. She worked in the fields and looked after the home in her husband's absence to help support their family. Occasionally, money was sent to her by her husband in America through friends or relatives. Her daughters taught her how to sign her name so that her checks could be cashed in Volos. <a href="#">Ourania's</a> son Gus always wondered if <a href="#">Ourania</a> received the correct amount of money for her checks. Life was hard as money was tight. Occasionally, their meals consisted of only boiled "horta" (wild collard greens). The following evening, the juices left over from the previous evening's greens would be served as a soup with dry bread.
July 29	1927	43 yrs old	<a href="#">Ourania's</a> brother-in-law Konstantinos died in car accident between Greenwood and Cleveland, MS, at the age of 39.
	1926		<a href="#">Ourania's</a> father Konstantinos Fivyas died in Klima. His entire life he worked as a fisherman, earning him the nickname "Katskanas" which was the name of a particular type of fish. His oldest son Yeoryios would eventually be given the same nickname.
May 20	1927		<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	45 yrs old	<a href="#">Ourania's</a> family had a two-story home built for their daughter Kerasia ("Keratso"). This home would be a part of her dowry (photo). Houses were built mostly from local stone and mud. The occasional use of wood in home construction consisted of local cypress 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	46 yrs old	<a href="#">Ourania's</a> daughter Kerasia ("Keratso"), at the age of 21, married Konstantinos ("Gus") Diamandis Berdanis in her new home in Ano Klima. Their <i>koumbaros</i> was Ioannis ("John") Sideris. Varsama was not present; he was working in America. This was the only child whose wedding he was not able to attend.

June 19	1930		<a href="#">Ourania</a> 's first grandchild, Ourania ("Nina") Konstantinos Berdanis, was born in her mother's home in Ano Klima. She was baptized by Ioannis ("John") and Kalliope Sideris.
	1934	51 yrs old	A two-story home for <a href="#">Ourania</a> 's daughter Anthoula was built next to her daughter Kerasia's home as a part of her dowry. This house would later become <a href="#">Ourania</a> 's daughter Alexandra's home after a swap between the two sisters. The upstairs of this home was the site of both Alexandra and Konstandinos's weddings in 1948.
November	1934		<a href="#">Ourania</a> 's son, Nikolaos ("Nick"), moved from Skopelos at the age of 17 to Hollandale, MS. <a href="#">Ourania</a> would never see him again.
October 14	1935	52 yrs old	<a href="#">Ourania</a> 's son Konstantinos ("Dino, Gus") moved from Skopelos at the age of 15 to Hollandale, MS. He travelled together with <a href="#">Ourania</a> 's brother Ioannis ("John") Fivyas. <a href="#">Ourania</a> saved his pigskin slippers next to the fireplace and told him she would see him in three years. He would not return for thirteen years. As the family left the upper village together and headed in the direction of Loutraki to see Dino onto the boat, they stopped at the village church of Ayii Anaryeri in Kato Klima to light candles for his safe journey. This was the last time that <a href="#">Ourania</a> would ever see him.
February	1936		<a href="#">Ourania</a> 's husband Varsamas sold his restaurant, the Post Office Café of Hollandale. He left his son Gus in Cleveland, MS, his son Nick in Corinth, MS, and returned to Greece. At about the time of his return, the family added a kitchen onto their existing ancestral home in Ano Klima. The kitchen had previously been separate from the home.
October	1937	54 yrs old	<a href="#">Ourania</a> 's daughter Kerasia ("Keratso"), <a href="#">Ourania</a> 's granddaughter Ourania ("Nina"), Kerasia's <i>koumbara</i> Kaliope Sideris, and Kaliope's son, Gus all moved from Skopelos to Cleveland, MS (photo). This was the last time <a href="#">Ourania</a> would ever see them.
	1938		<a href="#">Ourania</a> and her family had an <i>apothiki</i> (storage shed) built next to their daughters' homes.
July 28	1938		<a href="#">Ourania</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") Fivya 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 <a href="#">Ourania</a> 's house (the house Anthoula was born in) to be closer to her husband Konstantinos's parents. <a href="#">Ourania</a> and Varsamas moved into Kerasia's vacant house with their youngest daughter Alexandra.
May 17	1940	56 yrs old	<a href="#">Ourania</a> 's brother, Ioannis Konstantinos Fivyas, died of a heart attack in a hospital in Greenville, MS at the age of 52 (article).
October 28	1940		<u><i>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.</i></u>

December 8	1940	57 yrs old	<a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greco-Italian_War">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greco-Italian_War</a> Ourania'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. This was Ourania's second grandchild; both were named after her. She would only see these two grandchildren in her lifetime.
April 28	1941		<u><i>Athens, Greece falls to the Germans.</i></u> Both of Ourania's sons served in the US armed forces, but she never knew this.
December 26	1941	58 yrs old	Ourania's brother, Yeoryios Konstantinos Fivyas, died of pneumonia / TB in his home in Ano Klima at the age of 59. "He knows he is dying and he wants his family to be there with him so he calls them all together that day," Dimitrios Fivyas stated. After he died they burned his clothes due to the contagiousness of TB. Yeoryios and Varsamas's brother, Ioannis Polizos were very close friends. In his lifetime, Yeoryios also lived and worked in America, served as the President of the Klima community (similar to being the mayor) between 1935 and 1940, and lived to see only one of his fifteen grandchildren.
April	1943	59 yrs old	Ourania's mother-in-law, Alexandra ("Alexandro") Angelí Polizou, died in Ano Klima at the age of 94. She outlived her husband by 31 yrs, her son, Konstantine, and two of her grandchildren. Before they got married, her two granddaughters Anthoula and Alexandra often spent nights sleeping at their grandmother's house to keep her company.
	1943		Ourania's husband Varsamas is taken (along with his boat, the <i>Skilitsa</i> ) by the German military to Corinth, Greece. He spent four to six months doing forced labor, mostly loading and transporting wood. Varsamas missed Ourania's death and funeral by three weeks.
November 4	1943	60 yrs old	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	60 yrs old	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.

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