

not been for a time. He carried no grudges to his grave. But in 1960, just months after I returned from Greece, he departed angry and arrogant to serve a larger parish in Cleveland, Ohio. He was tired, too, and more hurt and vulnerable than he had ever been. He had fought with his parishioners, his wife, and his rebellious teenage daughters for the better part of a decade and now rumors followed him to Cleveland that I was dating non-Greeks. What would his parishioners think?

I returned to Des Moines knowing that my parents had been trying to keep alive in Iowa the Greek life they had known before World War II, a life that no longer existed in Americanized Athens. I saw, too, that their cosmopolitan perspectives had become diluted by those carried from rural Greece by their parishioners and that the Greeks in Athens were far more tolerant and far less afraid of change than the Iowa Greeks. I chose not to rejoin that or any other Greek-American community, to be Greek only in Greece. For a time my naive childhood affection for all that was Greek in the US was replaced by a bitterness rooted in the Greek American village that had become, for me, a confining, parochial island out of place in mid-America. Therein lies an irony. Many of my happiest memories are of this village.

Proposal for Peopling his Majesty's Southern Colonies on the Continent of America

ARCHIBALD MENZIES

The vast tracts of uncultivated land in *America*, which have been ceded to his Majesty by the late treaty of peace contain such a variety of soils, as, with proper culture, would supply us with all the materials for our manufactures, that are produced in hot climates; and even with many of our most expensive luxuries.

These materials are, at present, purchased in countries where we are constantly liable to have the price raised upon us by our rivals in trade.

A large extensive dominion, without inhabitants, must be an expence, in lieu of an advantage, to the mother-country; at the same time the utmost attention is necessary, not to nourish vipers in our bosom, by bringing in an improper kind of inhabitants.

As every scheme that may have a tendency to the good of this country, (however unknown the person may be who proposes it) will, I am convinced, be attended to by our present government, which appears to have nothing so much at heart as the public welfare; that consideration emboldens me humbly to offer one for the people of *Florida*, and the rest of his Majesty's Southern colonies on the continent of *America*, with inhabitants fit for the cultivating the natural produce of that country, whose religion will be a bar to their forming connections with the *French* or *Spaniards*; and who will readily intermarry, and mix with our own people settled there. The idea which I shall here suggest, occurred to me

during a short residence I lately made in the *Levant*, where I had occasion to acquire some knowledge of the characters, the manners, and the present situation of the people in question.

The people I mean, are the *Greeks* of the *Levant*, accustomed to a hot climate, and bred to the culture of the vine, olive, cotton, tobacco, madder, etc., etc., as also to the raising silk; and who could supply our markets with all the commodities which at present we have from *Turky*, and markets with all the commodities which at present we have from *Turky*, and other parts. These people are in general, sober and industrious; and being reduced, by their severe masters, to the greatest misery, would be easily persuaded to fly from slavery, to the protection of a free government. The *Greeks* of the Islands would be the most useful, and the easiest to bring away, as they are more oppressed than any others, having the same taxes to pay as the *Greeks* of the Continent; with the addition of an annual visit from the Capitan Bacha, or *Turkish* High Admiral. The sums arising from their exportation of vast quantities of silk, wine, oil, wheat, tobacco, mastic, cotton, hardly suffice to satisfy their greedy tyrants, who fleece them upon all occasions.

It may be observed, that they are excellent rowers, and might be of great service in the inland navigation of *America*.

I should likewise humbly propose to bring over some *Armenians*, who have long been, and still are, at this day, reputed an honest, trading, manufacturing people. In consequence of the late civil wars and revolutions in *Persia*, they left their native country in great numbers, and settled in *Turky*; where, tho' they find themselves less oppressed than at home, yet they still groan under the calamities of a despotic government.

This frugal and industrious people, would be fond of any favourable opportunity, to change a country of slavery and oppression, for one equally rich, where they could enjoy the

invaluable blessings of liberty, and security for their property. Great numbers are dispersed over the *Levant*; and the poorer sort are taken into the service of our merchants, preferable to any other people; their fidelity being incorruptible. They are equally expert with the *Greeks*, in cultivating the vine, olive, wheat, etc., etc. in manufacturing carpeting, cotton, and silk stuffs. They might be of great use in carrying on the inland trade in *America*, as they would not be so apt to play tricks with the *Indians*, as our traders are; their religion obliging them to live very frugally, and even the greatest part of the year on vegetables, would enable them to sell their goods cheaper than either the *French* or *Spaniards*. I should add, that many of them are people of considerable property.

All that, it is presumed, would be necessary to induce them to come, would be to allot proper lands for them, and to build and endow a few churches of their sect; as the Priests have intirely the direction of them, the great point would be to secure the clergy in our interest.

The *Greeks* may be induced equally with the *Armenians*, by their Priests; as likewise by raising a few companies of soldiers, to be levied in like manner with theirs in the service of the Crown of *Naples*; where a principal *Greek* obtains a company, and levy-money, on producing his company compleat at the place of rendezvous.

Great numbers come over daily to *Naples*, in hopes of getting into these corps; but as all of them cannot find employment in the military way, feeling themselves more at ease in the *Neapolitan* dominions, than at home, they willingly settle in the country, and apply themselves to the several occupations to which they have been bred. They are allowed the exercise of their religion, on acknowledging the Pope's supremacy, tho' even this condition they complain of; and very little would tempt them to move still farther from their own home. With us they would be under no restraint, and would not be liable to be disturbed, by the Priests endeavouring to convert

them; a circumstance highly disagreeable to their clergy, who detest the *Roman* Catholic more than any religion upon earth. The bitter animosity subsisting between the *Roman* Catholics and *Greeks*, has been one great cause of security to the *Ottoman* Crown, as each would rather submit to the *Turk*, than to the other.

The *Greek* and *Armenian* women are remarkable handsome. This circumstance would naturally prompt inter-marriages between our people and them, and soon put an end to all distinctions: Most of our merchants in *Turky* are married to Christian women of that country. If it should be apprehended, that we should embroil ourselves with the *Turks*, by spiriting away their subjects, the answer I should humbly offer to that is, That numbers of *Greeks* leave their country daily; many of whom are employed in different services, but avowedly by the *Venetians* and *Neapolitans*. Each of those Powers have constantly Ministers residing at the *Ottoman Porte*; but I never could learn any complaint had been made to them on that head.

There are great numbers of *Greeks* settled in *Minorca*; by their means many of their countrymen might be procured, as they well know how much happier they would be under his Majesty's government, than under any other whatsoever. I have been informed, that almost all the *Greeks* settled at *Minorca*, left that Island on its being taken by the *French*, in the late war.

It will appear from what has been said, that, by this proposal, it is only meant to induce a few *Greeks* and *Armenians* to come over at first; but the good reception they will probably meet with, will make them soon very desirous to invite their countrymen to partake of their happiness.

Megerny Castle, Perthshire
23d October 1763

The Grosse Pointe "Point" System and Greek Americans¹

DAN GEORGAKAS

Bordering Detroit on its east side are the five Grosse Pointe communities where some of the metropolitan area's wealthiest and most powerful citizens reside. From 1934 until the mid-1960s, realtors had a point system to keep out "undesirable elements." Most would-be home buyers had to score 50 points to be acceptable. Immigrants, religious minorities, and ethnic minorities, however, were judged by a different standard. Poles had to score 55, Greeks 65, Italians 75, and Jews 85. Asians and African Americans could not apply. The point system was administered by private detectives working for the Grosse Pointe Property Owner's Association. The questions included:

1. If not American born, how long have the applicants lived in this country?
2. Is their way of living typically American?
3. Are the husband's immediate associates typical?
4. Are their friends predominantly typical?
5. Appearances – swarthy, slightly swarthy, or not at all?
6. Accents – pronounced, medium, slight, not at all?
7. What is the husband's ranking within his occupation?
8. How does the husband's social position stand with the public?
9. Dress – sloppy, flashy, neat, or conservative?
10. Grammar – good, fair or poor?

When challenged about this system in the late 1960s, Paul Maxon, a veteran Grosse Pointe realtor, speaking for the