

BAGHDIKIAN FAMILY GENEALOGY

(“Baghdikian,” one who plants vineyards)

1. George (?) BAGHDIKIAN

- i. **Baghdikian**, Aram's father, shot and killed about 1917 in Marash during a massacre of Armenians; married Aram's mother, lived in Marash, killed by Turks prior to 1920; at least four children.

Children of Aram Baghdikian's father and mother:

- i. James? Baghdikian
- ii. Brother Baghdikian
- iii. Sister Baghdikian, bright red hair, died during WW I, about 1917.
- iv. Sister Baghdikian, bright red hair
- v. Aram Toros (“Theodore”) Baghdikian, professor and later preacher (The Reverend Aram Baghdikian), born 15 August 1882 in Marash, Turkey; died 23 August 1957. Missionaries in Marash converted his middle name “Toros” to “Theodore” and removed the “h” from “Baghdikian.” Did post-graduate work at American University of Beirut; later taught physics and chemistry at St. Paul's College (run by Americans) in Tarsus, Cilicia, Turkey (about 150 miles from Marash); also studied theology at the seminary in Marash and preached in Mersin but was never ordained there. Fled Marash with family on 9 February 1920 as Turks begin to kill all remaining Armenians (see Lydia Bagdikian's memoir). Came with family to America aboard the *Susquehanna* arriving in New York Harbor on 30 May 1920, registered by authorities on 2 June 1920 (port of departure Patras, Akhaia, Peloponnessos, Greece; see www.ellisland.org). In June 1920, went to Boston where grandmother Uvezian (Margaret) and Herant (“Uncle Fred”), Aram's brother-in-law, lived; stayed initially with the Gulian family (Jacob and Osanna Shamlan and their three children, Mean, Nora, and Grasse) in Newton, Massachusetts; about 1 July 1920, moved to Brighton, about a 10 minute walk from the Gulians; in August moved to a three-story house at 36 Brackett Street, just around the corner from the former Brighton place, sharing the house with Shamlans, Edward and Esther (Bagdikian) and their three daughters, Priscilla, Louise, and Gladys; moved from the Brackett Street house in late August, very early September 1922, to 59 Elm Street in Stoneham, Massachusetts.

By October 1920, he was preacher for two Armenian churches in the Boston area: the Cilician Armenian Congregational Church of Boston, where he preached in Turkish; became minister of the Armenian Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In about 1940, Aram left the large Cambridge church to become preacher at the smaller Church of the Armenian Martyrs in Worcester, Massachusetts, the oldest Armenian church in America. "He died of a heart attack. He had a small heart "incident" ten years earlier and his doctor told him he must cut back on his physical activities (that was the standard cardiological advice in those days, though now the advice is radically different). Typically, my father ignored any advice to be sedentary. He was, by nature, vigorous and used to physical activity. He was, everywhere he had ever lived during my lifetime, a creator of a huge gardens. Until I was 17, we lived in Stoneham, Massachusetts, where he had a very large garden that produced all the vegetables we ate, all the apples, cherries, peaches, plums—and the fruit he produced by grafting plum and peach. He was a genius at such things. He grafted new varieties of dahlias and other bulbed plants, and grafted varieties of apples on the stalks of unwanted but fast-growing trees of other varieties. He did this even when, for a time after he moved to become pastor of the Church of the Armenian Martyrs in Worcester, Massachusetts, he lived in an apartment without sufficient space for his usual garden. He was a winning man and found the owner of the vacant lot next door and received permission to create a large garden there. He later moved to a larger house where once more, he created a large garden, built his usual grape arbor on which he grew masses of concord grapes. One could speculate that his famous green thumb (people brought him sick plants to cure) came from the fact that his parents in Marash were peasants. My father went to college and graduate school despite this, but I think he never gave up a feel for the earth. In addition to this, in this country, he visited his parishioners regularly. It was a scattered parish because Armenians did not live in the neighborhood of their church, as is true in many traditional Roman Catholic Churches. They lived all over Cambridge and Boston, when my father was pastor of the Cambridge Church, and they lived all over greater Worcester when he took over that church. In both cases he walked miles every day visiting sick and dying parishioners, marrying them, burying them, etc. So when the doctor advised cutting back on physical activity, my father ignored him. The doctor warned him that if he did not cut back he'd be dead in six months. My father died ten years later. (Ben H. Bagdikian to TWP III, 22 December 1998.)

First married, in 1905, to Dudeh ("Daisey") A. Uvezian, born 13 December 1886 in Marash, died 5 July 1923 at Boston. Attended American college for girls in Marash; diagnosed with tuberculosis shortly after arriving in Boston (hospitalized in July 1920), spent most of the last three years of her life in sanitariums. **See Uvezian genealogy.**

Second marriage, 8 July 1924 to Santookt Tavitian, born 1892 in Marash; while hiding in a tree with her sister, she watched while Turks slaughtered her mother and father and brothers; after her marriage to Aram it was forbidden to mention the name of his first wife.

Children by first wife, Aram Toros Bagdikian and Dudeh A. Uvezian:

- i. Tirzah Daisey Bagdikian, born 17 May 1907, died 23 May 1990; trained as a nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital.
- ii. Lydia Natalie Bagdikian, born 8 January 1909, died 8 June 1993, buried next to her mother at Mt. Hope Cemetery in the Mattapan section of Boston.
- iii. Cynthia Lucille Bagdikian, born 8 January 1911; as of 22 December 1998, living in Ojai, California.
- iv. Nora Althea Bagdikian, born 7 June 1913; as of 22 December 1998, living in Lakewood, California.
- v. Ben Hur (“Ben”) Haig Bagdikian, born 30 January 1920, in Marash, in the American Hospital; came to Boston (via Ellis Island) with family as an infant in 1920; went to Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts; became a journalist, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and many other awards in American journalism; a Washington Bureau Chief and Foreign Correspondent for *The Providence Journal*, and Assistant Managing Editor of *The Washington Post*. Joined the U.S. Air Force in 1942. Professor at the Graduate School of Journalism, University of California at Berkeley, 1976-1990; Dean, 1985-1988; Emeritus, 1991—. “I received plenty of ribbing about the Ben Hur from schoolmates, so when I made out the form to get my Massachusetts driving license at age 16, I filled the form with Ben Haig Bagdikian, and that's the way it's been ever since (except among my Stoneham public schoolmates who still survive)” (Ben H. Bagdikian to TWP III, personal communication, 22 December 1998). As of January 1999, living at 25 Stonewall Road, Berkeley, California 94705-1414. Married Betty Ogasapian, divorced, two children; married a second time, to Betty Medsger, divorced; married a third time, to Marlene Griffith.

Children of Ben Hur Haig Bagdikian and Betty Ogasapian:

- i. Chris Bagdikian, born 1944
- ii. Eric Bagdikian, born 1952

Children by second wife, Aram Toros Bagdikian and Santookt Tavitian:

- i. Aram Toros (“Theodore”) Bagdikian, Jr., born 1925; as of 22 December 1998, living on Long Island, New York.
 - ii. David Bagdikian, born 1930, died “several years ago” (about 1995 or 1996).
- ii. **George** (or Charles) **Bagdikian**, born in Marash, Turkey, seven days journey by horseback from Adana; preacher; married Mary Boyajian, born Marash, Turkey; ten children.

Children of George Bagdikian and Mary Boyajian:

- i. Name unknown, born in Tarsus, Turkey; date of birth unknown, killed as a infant; according to Louise Mary Shamlian, the baby's sister Esther Bagdikian was carrying the baby on her back when she was jostled and the baby fell, his soft palate dropped and he choked to death.
- ii. Leah Bagdikian, born in Tarsus, Turkey, died in the Armenian massacres; married, name unknown, lived in Tarsus, about eight miles from Adana; at least one child.

Child of Leah Bagdikian:

- i. Vergin, married Atalarian, lived in Beirut, Lebanon; three children.

Children of Vergin and Atalarian:

- i. Avedis Atalarian, went to Russian Armenia, married with children.
 - ii. George Atalarian, went to Russian Armenia, married with children.
 - iii. Marjorie Atalarian, lived near her mother in Beirut; married, two daughters.
- iii. Alexander Bagdikian, born 11 August 1884 (twin of Victoria Bagdikian), in Tarsus, Turkey; a tailor, died in England; unmarried.
 - iv. Victoria Bagdikian, born 11 August 1884 (twin of Alexander Bagdikian), in Tarsus, Turkey, died 3 July 1956; first marriage to Samuel Deladarian, lived in Tarsus where he was killed during the Turkish massacres of the

Armenians; she came to America at age 24, with her 19-month old baby Helen, her sister Esther, and brother Paul, arriving in Boston aboard an Italian ship called the *Lazio* on 10 November 1908 (the ship was supposed to go to Ellis Island but for some unknown reason went to Boston; the voyage was financed by their father); second marriage to Alexander Garabedian who had four (five?) grown children from a previous marriage.

Child of Victoria Bagdikian and Samuel Deladarian:

- i. Helen Deladarian, born 17 April 1907, at Tarsus, Turkey, died 10 May 1992; after 1908, lived in Watertown, Massachusetts, a suburb of Boston; after 1966, at 13563 Herron Street, Sylmar, California. Married 16 December 1928 to Vahan Daghlian, born 1906 at Adana; three children.

Children of Helen Deladarian and Vahan Daghlian:

- i. Michael Daghlian, married with two sons.
 - ii. Rupen Daghlian, married with a daughter.
 - iii. Paul Daghlian
- v. Simon Bagdikian, born in Tarsus, Turkey; a tailor, migrated to England from Armenia in about 1910, lived in New Castel-on-Tyne, England; killed during the bombing of England by Germans during World War II; married an English woman, two children.

Children of Simon Bagdikian:

- i. Daughter, married.
 - ii. Son, worked as a gardener for the Queen of England; married.
- vi. Miran (“Martin”) Bagdikian, born (twin of Leon Bagdikian) in Tarsus, Turkey; a merchant dyer; inducted into the Turkish Army during World War II and killed in the service; married, two children, a son and daughter.
 - vii. Leon Bagdikian, born (twin of Miran Bagdikian) in Tarsus, Turkey; a carpenter, lived in England with brother Simon, then came to America where he lived in Watertown, Massachusetts; just before World War II he went back to Adana, Turkey, where he was inducted into the Turkish Army and was killed in the service; unmarried.

viii. Richard Bagdikian, born in Tarsus, Turkey; a tailor, contracted tuberculosis as a result of being gassed while serving in the British Army during World War I; died in Wanganui, New Zealand; unmarried.

ix. Esther Bagdikian, born 1894 in Tarsus, died 27 March 1943 (May 1942?) at Fresno, California; came to America at age 14, with her sister Victoria and brother Paul, arriving in Boston aboard the *Lazio* on 10 November 1908; married, 15 September 1910, at Boston, to Edward George Shamlan, born October 1886 in Adana, died in 1961 at Fresno, a watch repairman and doctor of chiropractics; four children (see **Shamlan Family Genealogy**).

x. Paul G. Bagdikian, born 1896 in Tarsus, Turkey, died 1981; came to America at age 12, with his sisters Victoria and Esther, arriving in Boston aboard the *Lazio* on 10 November 1908; worked as a handyman for a family that lived in Maine; wanted to attend medical school but could not afford it; obtained a degree in chiropractics from the Palmer Chiropractic College in Davenport, Iowa, and built a successful practice with his wife in Bath, Maine; married 18 August 1923, 8:00 p.m., at the house of Edward and Esther Shamlan in Brighton, Massachusetts, to Frieda Ehlers ("Aunt Frieda"), born 1898, died _____, who he met at the Palmer Chiropractic College and from where they both graduated; marriage performed by cousin Rev. Aram Bagdikian; in 1966 lived at 122 Front Street, Bath, Maine; two children.

Children of Paul Bagdikian and Frieda Ehlers:

- i. Anita Bagdikian, married Charles Metcalf; lived at Hollis, Maine.
- ii. Paul Bagdikian, Jr., married Prudence Muisse; lived at 14 Tromley Road, Warehouse Point, Connecticut; had identical twin boys.

Children of Paul Bagdikian, Jr. and Prudence Muisse:

- i. Joseph Bagdikian
- ii. James Bagdikian