

According to an old oral tradition of our family, the Patsourakos family, except all other places in the world, has also reached Japan!

I cannot guarantee that this is true, although there are some evidences, but I cite it as it was narrated to me by my father Vasileios Patsourakos.

“The first son of Stratos Patsouris from Konakia was born in 1811.

Around 1845, when he was 15 year old, he decided to go from Konakia to Nomia to visit his relatives there, as well as his grandfather from his mother’s side.

While in Nomia he was given the chance, by one of his relatives, to embark to a ship going to Crete. He decided to do so, firstly because he needed the money but also because he had an adventurous and pirate character as all Maniots. During the trip from Mani to Crete the ship was captured by pirates. All Mediterranean and especially Greek waters were infested by pirates at the time.

Patsouris was captivated by the pirates and after a long series of adventures which did not discouraged him as he was young and Maniot, he eventuated in Japan.

*There he settled and change his surname to **Katsouris**. One of his descendants became Prime Minister of Japan. It is likely that he was the one who established the “Spartan Award” as the highest military award in the Japanese Army.*

During 1910 or 1911, when a Japanese naval division visited Piraeus, a classified ad of the Japanese Embassy in Athens was published in the Athenian newspaper “Embros”, where the Admiral of The Japanese Fleet, at the request of the Prime Minister of Japan, was asking anybody who had information on a family with the surname Katsouris, residing in the area of Taygetos, to contact him. Ioannis Patsourakos son of Vasileios replied to the ad but never got any reply back”

Anargyros (Agis) Patsourakos, May 2009.