

UVEZIAN FAMILY GENEALOGY

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- 1. Avedis UVEZIAN**, born 1860s, probably in Marash, died in a horse-riding accident in Marash about 1905, shortly after the marriage of his daughter, Dudeh A. Uvezian to Aram Baghdikian. He was an excellent horseman, as were all male Uvezians, nicknamed “The Mosquito” because the Uvezians made their money by running a caravan between Aleppo and Marash (transporting gems, spices, etc., from the Far East; his partner was a man named Kuyumjian, which means “jeweler,” and his second in command was Asadoor (“Arthur”) Kalayjian; see below) and was successful because he learned how to travel across the dessert at night (like mosquitoes) to avoid the bandits that made daytime caravans treacherous (Ben H. Bagdikian to TWP III, 11 February 1999, 20 June 2006). Married Margarite Tashjian (born 1868) who left Armenia for Boston in 1913, with her youngest son Herant (Frederick or “Uncle Fred”), where they joined another son, Stephen. In the meantime, Asadoor Kalayjian (born 22 February 1870, died on his birthday in 1932), who had been the deputy in Marash to her first husband, immigrated in 1910 to Helena, Montana, where he bought a ranch; when he heard that Margarite and her sons were in Boston, he wrote to her suggesting that she and young Fred take the train to visit him at the ranch, and if they liked each other, they should get married; they eventually married and spent their pre-war and war years in Montana; later they sold the ranch and moved to Rochester, New York, where they opened and operated two grocery stores, she running one, where they lived in an apartment behind the store, and he operating the other, while buying supplies for both stores; Ben Bagdikian and his sister Tirzah spent the summer of 1929 in Rochester, during which time Ben bonded with his grandmother and step-grandfather, “a happy mandolin-playing man whose goal that summer was to fatten up his grandchild”); losing everything in the Crash of 1929, they moved to Somerville, Massachusetts, where, an expert in leather as a former rancher, he opened a shoe repair shop. Ben Bagdikian, then living with his family in Stoneham, Massachusetts, spent most of his summers with them; after Ben’s mother died in 1923, when Ben was three, and his father remarried a year later, the two families had many dinners together, with lots of food, much of it grown by Ben’s father Aram in his garden; Ben and his step-grandfather became very close and he was one of the few people his “formidable grandmother seemed to like”; in her later years, Margarite began to behave in strange angry ways, often highly short-tempered and unpredictable (probably Alzheimers Disease). In 1932, at a banquet given by Aram Bagdikian (Ben’s father) at the big Armenian Congregational Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in honor of Asadoor Kalayjian’s 62nd birthday, together with all his friends in the Boston Area, they told lots of wonderful old stories; Asadoor got up on stage and said that a man who could, at his age, see so many of his best friends together, could die happily, and he dropped dead on the spot. Police were called and said no one should touch him until the coroner arrived and so he lay there dead until Margarite strode to the platform, sat down crossing her legs and laid her dead husband’s head in her lap, stroking his head until the ambulance and coroner arrived (Ben H. Bagdikian, personal communication, 26 April 2011). Shortly after Margarite moved back to Beirut, Lebanon, to live with relatives, and died a few years later. Five children from the first marriage.

Children of Avedis Uvezian and Margarite Tashjian:

- i. Hagop Uvezian, went to Germany to study music (violin and piano), returned just prior to WW I to live in Aleppo (then under Turkish rule, but now part of Syria).

- ii. Stephen (“Stefan”) Uvezian, born about 1889, died in a plane crash prior to 1920; left Adana, Turkey, and immigrated to America at age 20, along with his Baghdikian cousins, Victoria, with her 19-month old daughter Helen, her sister Esther, and brother Paul, departing Naples, Italy, on 27 October 1909, and arriving in South Boston aboard an Italian ship, the S.S. *Lazio*, on 10 November 1909. “He worked in the Waltham Watch factor in Waltham, Massachusetts, and helped invent the mechanism that by 1918 permitted pilots of U.S. fighter planes in WW I to fire machine guns straight ahead, through the plane’s propeller. I was told that Uncle Stephen died in a plane crash near Savin Rock, New Haven, Connecticut—when, I do not know, but obviously after 1918 and probably before 1920 because I never met him, he was not part of the surviving family circle that gathered periodically, and I heard the plane crash story when I was very young” (Ben H. Bagdikian to TWP III, 29 January 1999).

“My Uncle Stephen was a well-known watchmaker for the Waltham Watch Company near Boston. His wedding present on the occasion of my parents’ wedding was a quite remarkable gold pocket watch. My father from time to time would open the two gold doors that revealed the inner gears and other inner mechanisms. (When I wind it the watch works; it is now more than 100 years old.) The face of the watch is remarkable. It is ivory with filigree hands for both the main face and the seconds circle at the bottom. Across the face of the watch is my father’s name in clear and precise print: Aram T. Baghdikian.” The middle initial “T” at that time, I’m sure stood for “Toros,” which my father at some point, probably at his ordination in the United States, he changed to “Theodore.” Whether he did it as an Americanization or because he was a great admirer of Theodore Roosevelt, I don’t know” (Ben H. Bagdikian to TWP III, 25 May 2010).

- iii. Duded (“Daisy”) A. Uvezian, born 13 December 1886 in Marash, died 5 July 1923, 11:15 pm, at Boston, buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery in the Mattapan section of Boston. Attended American college for girls in Marash; diagnosed with pneumonia and then tuberculosis shortly after arriving in Boston, spent most of the last three years of her life in sanitariums. First admitted to Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, then, on 17 September 1920, to Rutland Sanitarium in Rutland, Massachusetts, and finally, on 27 January 1923, to Lakeville State Sanitarium in Middleboro. Married 1905 to Aram Toros Bagdikian, five children (**see Baghdikian genealogy**).

- iv. Haig Uvezian, lived in Tarsus, went to St. Paul’s College (run by Americans) in Tarsus (about 150 miles from Marash), died of meningitis in 1912.

- v. Herant (Frederick or “Uncle Fred”) A. Uvezian, the youngest of the family, born 14 October 1902, died 20 November 1991 at 1:45 a.m.; in 1912, left Armenian for Boston with his mother (Margarite Tashjian), and then on to a ranch in Helena, Montana, where his mother remarried; came back to Boston area about 1920 to live with Aram Bagdikian and family during the time that Duhdeh Bagdikian was in sanitariums, left after Aram remarried in 1924. Married Anna Masserelli (born 1905); lived in Dedham, Massachusetts. “I remember once staying in their Dedham cottage when I was perhaps eight years old. They lost the cottage with the Crash of 1929 when insurance companies and banks went broke. As a result, they thereafter lived in apartments. My guess is that they married in 1927, 1928, or early 1929. Aunt Anna died sometime in the late 1960s or early 1970s” (Ben H. Bagdikian to TWP III, 29 January 1999). At least one child.

Child of Herant (Frederick) Uvezian and Anna Masserelli:

- i. Frederick A. Uvezian, Jr., born Boston, 8 June 1932; died at his home, Bellingham, Massachusetts, Monday, 18 January 2010; lived in Boston before moving to Bellingham in 1966; graduated from Dedham High School Class of 1950; attended Northeastern University; a veteran of the Korean War; a truck driver for the Balbonis Express in Norwood and Sun Chemical Corp.; retired in 1994; everyone who knew him called him dad or grandpa; second marriage to Pauline L. Cross (born Honolulu, 1945; died Milford, Massachusetts, 24 September 2008); both buried at Scott Cemetery, Bellingham, Massachusetts; four stepchildren, five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren.

Children of Frederick A. Uvezian, Jr., and first wife:

- i. Ronald A. Uvezian of Bellingham, Massachusetts.
- ii. Richard A. Uvezian of Worcester, Massachusetts.
- iii. Donald F. Uvezian, of Millis, Massachusetts.
- iv. Beverly Ann Uvezian of North Attleborough, Massachusetts; married Steele.