



“CHRIST SAVED SAMOS ON THE 6TH OF AUGUST 1824”

The Struggle for Freedom by the Samian people

The contribution of the Samians in the many battles for the liberation of the Nation is great. Many Samians were members of the “Filiki Etairia” (The Secret Society) which was founded in order to organize the liberation of the Nation from the Turkish occupation. This struggle of liberation is full of heroic deeds and sacrifices that the Samians suffered for their cause. One of these sacrifices is the burning of the forests of the island.

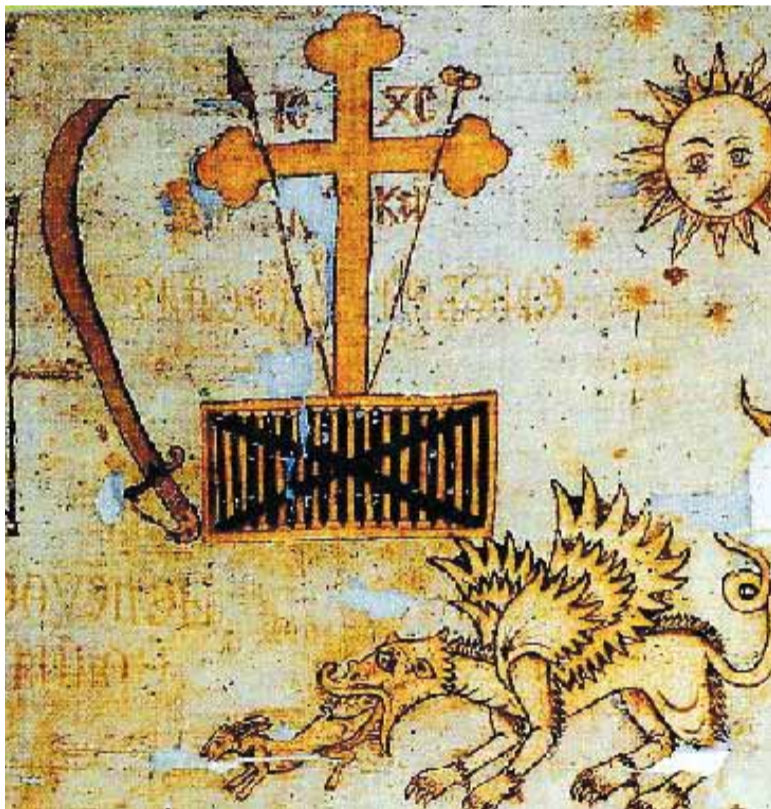
Samos from the days of Antiquity, was well known for her densely wooded forests. The Turks, during the years of their occupation, used to take the timber from the forests as it was regarded as high-quality for the purpose of constructing their warships. The Samians, although deriving great financial benefits from the felling of the trees and other products from the forest, decided, after many secret consultations and with a view to hitting the Turks where it hurts, to burn their own forests.

On the 18th of April 1821

In Vathy, at the location “Pigadakia”, the Samian Constantine Fokos, member of the Secret Society and known by the pseudonym “Lahanas” (the members of the Secret Society “Filiki Etairia” assumed false names), hoisted the Flag of the Revolution to signify the beginning of the Samians quest for freedom. The High Command was given to another Samian, George Paplomatas, known under the false name Lykourgos Logothetis, who arrived in Samos only a few days later.

On the 8th of May 1821

The High Commander Logothetis, after organizing the able bodied men into fighting units who, with great enthusiasm, welcomed the call for the uprising against the Tyrant, proclaimed at Carlovassi, togeth-



er with the Bishop of Samos – Kyrillos – the beginning of the revolution.

The Turkish Garrisons were quickly expelled from the island and a new administrative regime was set. The Samians continued their struggle for many years thereafter and repulsed many attacks from the Turks.

On the 6th of August 1824

Samos, yet again, managed to repel a fresh Turkish attempt at reoccupying the island.

The Turkish fleet, under the command of Admiral Hoshref Pasha, and a large Turkish army arrived off the coast of Samos. The Turks, were trying for over a month to secure firm footing on the island by

the use of repeated and successive charges and landings. These were successfully revolted by the Samians.

Many of the Samian warriors that were posted behind fortifications of the Hill of Kastelli at Pythagorion, suffered from the shortage of drinking water due to the nearby spring producing high levels of salt, which made drinking impossible. However, during those critical days, the vein that was bringing the natural and unsalted drinking water resumed its flow and this happy event was interpreted as an Act of Divine Providence by the defenders. Meanwhile the Greek fleet had arrived and helped force the Turks to abandon Samos and try to find refuge along the coast of Asia Minor. Shortly afterward a big naval battle took place which



George Paplomatas, known under the false name Lykourgos Logothetis

resulted in the complete destruction of the Turkish Fleet.

At the Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour which is at Pythagorion, there is an inscription that bears witness to this momentous event; the writing is “CHRIST SAVED SAMOS ON THE 6TH OF AUGUST 1824”

The Protocol of 3rd February 1830

This was signed in London. The Protocol left Samos outside the frontiers of the newly created Greek State. The significance of this was that without the unification with the newly formed Greek state, Samos was exposed to being forced to form part of the Ottoman Empire. The Samians would not accept this and continued their struggle for freedom.

On the 10th of December 1832

After the intervention, of the then Three Great Powers – England, France and Russia, the Sultan, as head of the Ottoman empire, is forced to accept for Samos the regime of “Hegemony” in exchange for certain tax revenue. The Sultan could also appoint as High Commissioner a Christian, and simultaneously was also

granted many other privileges. In spite of this effort, the Samians refused to accept this new regime and continued to demand their Union with the already Free Greece.

On the 23rd of September 1912

For 80 years the Samians lived under the regime of “Hegemony”. In 1912, many Samians, under the leadership of Themistocles Sophoulis, rebelled, took up arms, captured the Turkish Garrisons and with the help of an American vessel, transported them to the coast of Asia Minor which was just across the island.

On the 11th of November 1912

The Representatives of the island assembled at the Church Of St Spyridon, at Vathy, and voted for the union of Samos with the rest of Greece.

On the 2nd of March 1913

The Union was officially ratified by the Greek Government. The age long bloody struggles of the Samians for their freedom and union with mother Greece had at last been crowned with success.