



Figger Bulgary's cottage at Ando, later demolished, on Mr August Rumph's property. (Courtesy Martin Rumph)

Antonis tou Manoli



There are more unknowns than knowns about the life of Antonis tou Manoli and his shipmates. His family name is unknown – 'Antonis tou Manoli' literally means 'Antonis, son of Manolis'. It is not a family name. No written records of his experiences by his own hand have yet been found, and it is doubtful they were recorded, so these secrets will probably remain secret.

Their birthplaces remain a matter for debate. While there are some assertions that Antonis was born in Athens, the islands of the Saronic Gulf are by far more likely candidates. Athens in the early 1800s was a small village of a few hundred souls who lived off the land, clustered around the slopes of the Akropolis. Hydra, Aegina, Salamis and the other islands were major trading and shipping centres. As demonstrated by the examples of Andreas Miaoulis (from Hydra) and Laskarina Bouboulina (from Spetses), the fleets of these and other Aegean Islands played crucial roles in the Hellenic War of Independence. It is therefore far more likely that these islands were the birthplaces of Antonis and his companions.

In September 1843, Antonis married an English lady named Elizabeth Gorey of Redbank⁹, about whom lit-

Bibliography

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