

Georgia (File 489, Description 6, n. 2036 1807), Gurdjieff's uncle Vasiliï lived in the village of Ekepad whose inhabitants were included in the village records of the larger southern Georgian village of Keivan-Bulgason, now called Velispiri, one of three villages in which Greek speaking Greeks rather than Turkish speaking Greeks settled in Georgia from Turkey. Gurdjieff's statement that the family emigrated from Turkey appears to be confirmed by Professor Rismag Gordeziani's *The Greeks in Georgia* (1990, 7) that cites Ekepad records to the effect that Ivan and his brother Vasiliï emigrated from Gumush Khaneh (modern Gumushan) in Turkey and retained their Greek language. Gurdjieff's father Ivan and uncle Vasiliï, then, were both born in Turkey.

Gurdjieff writes that after settling in Georgia, his father separated from his brothers (Vasiliï and ?) and moved to the Armenian town of Alexandropol, "which had just changed its name from the Turkish name Gumri" (*Meetings* 40), a form of the earlier name Kumäiri. In 1837, after thirty three years of Russian occupation, Tsar Nicholas I renamed the city Alexandropol, after his wife's name. Taking Gurdjieff's statement at face value, we would assume that his family settled in Alexandropol about 1840, though Ivan Ivanovich Gurdjieff was not born until 1847.

Georgian records state that Vasiliï married Politima Oprikov in November 1867, and moved afterwards to Alexandropol where the birth of their son Kiriakoz is recorded in the metric (family) book of the Church of Alexandropol. Vasiliï's great grandson, George Kiourtzidis, recalls that the name of their son was Alexander. When Vasiliï married, his family name was recorded as Kurdjogli. His brother Ivan Ivanovich, Gurdjieff's father, had probably lived in Georgia as well. According to the Central Archives of Armenia (File 47, Description 2, n25), he was born Ivan Ivanovich Kurchogli (Georgian form Vano Kurdji-ogli) and at the age of twenty-three, in 1871, he married eighteen-year old Evdokia Eleptherovna (b. 1852), the daughter of Elepther

Eleptheroff. Were he born in 1847, Ivan Ivanovich Gurdjjeff would have been seventy or seventy-one years of age when he died on 25 June 1918, and were his son Georgii born in late 1877, when he died on the morning of 29 October 1949, he would have been almost the same age that his father had been when he died.

The Alexandropol record of local families in 1907 lists an Ivan Ivanovich Gurdjiff, his wife Eva, sons Georgii (b. 1880), Dmitri "Mido" (b. 1883), and daughter Sophia (no birth year). The appearance of the name Eva is curious, since it has no etymological relationship to the Greco-Russian name Evdokia. The 1931 French census report has Sophia born in Alexandropol in 1896. 1895 is the date on her French death certificate. Earlier municipal records mention a daughter Lukeria, a relatively common Russian name though both Georgii and his brother Dmitri mentioned a sister Luberia and Dmitri named his first daughter Luba after Luberia, a rare name. An 1885 entry on Ivan contains the names Maria and Anna, and the Alexandropol Church archives mention a daughter Melania born in 1875 (Armenia, File 47).

In Alexandropol records from 1883 to 1918, the name Gurdjjeff appears often, spelled variously as Гурджевь, and Гурджиевь. The 1907 document that lists Ivan's two sons and daughter Sophia does not mention Lukeria whose name appears in 1885 and 1887 documents. One can assume that she died before 1907. Alexandropol records have Ivan's wife as Evdokia Eleptherovna, but on Ivan's death announcement, 25 June 1918, her name is given as M[unreadable] Kalerovna. The patronymic Kalerovna is given to Evdokia also on an 1885 document, and the French death notice of Gurdjjeff's mother has "Evdoki Kale-roff" as her name, but I find the name Kaler only in Tyrol records from the fifteenth century. I am tempted to believe that Kaler reflects Greek kalos "good, beautiful." The given and surnames of Gurdjjeff's mother have semantic convergences, since Greek