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We know, from a letter written on the 14th April 1902 to his brother Menas on the island, that Emmanuel Kritharis lived in the area of Mortdale, in George Street, not far from Sydney in a house called "Athena Cottage". We learn also the astonishing information that the Kytherian member of Parliament, Kaloutzis, had volunteered his services to recommend Emmanuel Kritharis for the position of Ambassador in Sydney, if he (Emmanuel) was interested. Kritharis expresses his complete surprise because "neither Mr. Kaloutzis or any other M.P. had the power to appoint ambassadors". Emmanuel further comments that "Mr. Kaloutzis as a person in politics and a member of Parliament should have known that "there was an appointed person in the position for the past twenty years". He concludes by saying that such a position offers no salary and is only a honorary one and that he "would have never accepted such a post as ever since he had understood the world he had never sought neither name nor power or glory". "I consider all that as vanity" he adds. In the same letter, as a post script, he informs his brother that "in two weeks there will be an announcement of peace and that the King will be crowned on the 26th of June 1903". The letter is clearly written with steady handwriting and very strongly expressed ideas revealing that he not only was well educated but he also kept up with the news in Australia as well as Europe.

It is possible that, before settling in Mortdale, Emmanuel Kritharis had lived for a short time else where in Australia. Due to the distance between Hurstville and Sydney, he had little contact with other members of the Greek Community and although well known, every one called him "the monk".⁹ He never married and was never naturalized. His occupation remains a mystery and his name does not appear on any other government or municipal records. Was he perhaps another deserter afraid of someone or something? Or he felt secure in his wealth and stayed well away of other people keeping in touch only with a few relatives in Greece, enjoying life in the house called "Athena Cottage", where he lived with his close friends Spyro and Mary? We know

that Spyro Bennett was a native of Greece¹³ and that his wife Mary was the Executrix and Trustee of Emmanuel's Will, what we don't know is, who Spyro really was and what was the connection with Emmanuel?

On the 7th of March 1913 Emmanuel Kritharis must had felt that the end of his life was near and signed his Will. With this Will he instructed that "all personal estate to be converted into money and to pay the proceeds together with all monies ready or otherwise to the Consul for Greece acting in the City of Sydney aforesaid to be applied by him in the Relief of the wounded Greeks and in the carrying on of the present War in which Greece is now engaged such Greeks as aforesaid to have received their wounds in such war...". We know that his donation was in the vicinity of over thirty thousand (30.000) francs. It was the very first donation to this cause and a very substantial one. Unfortunately details have been lost with no official record of this substantial donation neither in Australia nor in Greece being verified.

Emmanuel Kritharis died only two days after he had signed his Will, on Sunday the 9th of March 1913.² The cause of his death was **a**) valvular disease and **b**) pulmonary congestion, as certified by his doctor, James McLeod, who last saw him a day earlier on the 8th of March 1913. The burial service was conducted by Rev. Seraphim Phokas. The certificate of his death and burial was signed by John Comino (Kominos) and Spyro Bennett. A notation in the death certificate informs us that he had lived in N.S.W. for fifty-two (52) years. His grave stands as clear indication of a person that lived an honorable life and died a very dignified death.

His death was announced in the local paper "Propeller" on Friday 14th of March 1913 as follows: "Mr (George) Kritharis Emmanuel of Mortdale, died on Sunday last, Aged (80). The remains of the deceased were interred in the Greek portion of Sutherland Cemetery on Monday, a large number of fellow-countrymen and friends being present at the graveside".

The burial ground of Emmanuel Kritharis stayed undisturbed in Woronora General Cemetery for eleven years to the day until his friend Spyro Bennett died on Thursday 13th of

March 1924 and was buried there in the same grave. Spyros name was never inscribed there, nor did any one ever corrected the mistakes that the engraver made on the original monument. Spyro Bennett as mentioned, was a native of Greece and the husband of Mary Bennett, the Executrix and Trustee of Emmanuel's Will but more importantly a very close friend and I suspect a trusted partner for very many years.

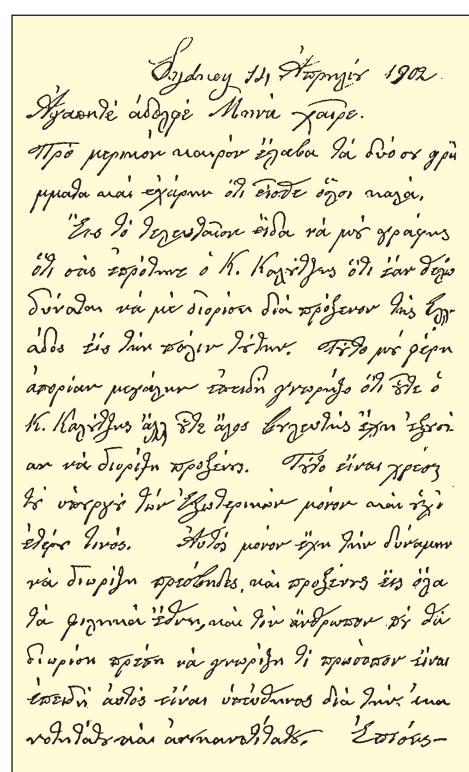
An agreement⁷ signed on the 25th of June 1913 between the Executrix of Kritharis' Will, Mary Bennett and his cousin George who lived at Katoomba N.S.W., before the Consul General for Greece, reveals that Spyro and Mary Bennett were to inherit properties and goods in Australia and George, all the property on the island Kythera. Details of the Will, were officially transferred to the registry of Potamos, Kythera, on 21 August 1913.⁸ This however is another story.

From the facts presented above we now know that:

- Emmanuel Kritharis was born on Kythera in 1832. **2, 3**
- He died on the 9th March 1913 at the age of eighty one (81) in Mortdale, N.S.W. **1, 2, 3**
- He was buried at Woronora Cemetery on Monday 10th March, grave no. 406. **1, 3, 12**
- Lived in N.S.W. for 52 years as a "Gentleman of independent means".²
- Kritharis' real estate was divided in to three equal parts.
- Made a donation of over 30.000 francs to the war effort in Greece. **6, 9**
- Was never married and never became naturalized. **1, 2**
- He owned no business in Australia. **1, 4**
- If we allow one or two years until means of transportation was found and accept that he left Kythera at the approximate age of twenty, Emmanuel George Kritharis arrived here in 1854, a proposition that permits us to claim that he was the first Kytherian to reach Australia.

Sources and bibliography:

1. State Government records.
2. Death Certificate No. 2366/1241.
3. Records of Woronora General Cemetery.
4. Valuer General's of N.S.W. records.



A hand written letter of Emmanuel Kritharis forwarded on the 14th April 1902 to his brother at Kythera

5. Hand written letter by Emmanuel Kritharis to his brother Menas, 14 April 1902.
6. Kritharis' Will written and signed the 7 March 1913.
7. Agreement between Mary Bennett and George Kritharis signed 25 June 1913.
8. Transfer of details of Kritharis' Will to the Registry of Potamos, Kythera 21 August 1913.
9. "I Zoi en Afstralja" Sydney 1916.
10. "Australians and Greeks" Vol. I. Hugh Gilchrist. 1997.
11. Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia Directory 1993.
12. "Propeller" Hurstville's local newspaper 1913
12. "Kythiraiki Idea" Jan- Feb. 2003.
13. Sydney Press 1840- 1914.
14. "A Shop Full of Dreams" Sydney 1993.

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Sydney 2005

DEATH REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.														
No.	Date and place of death	Name and occupation	Sex and age	Cause of death	Duration of last illness; medical attendant; when he last saw deceased	Name and occupation of father	Name and maiden surname of mother	In informant	Particulars of registration	When and where buried; name of undertaker	Name and religion of Minister and names of witnesses of burial	Where born and how long in the Australasian Colonies or States	Place of marriage, age, and to whom	Children of marriage
2366	1913 9th March 1/24-1	Emmanuel George Kritharis	Male 81 years	(a) Valvular disease (1) unknown of heart (mitral) (2) 2 years (3) unknown (4) James McLeod Registered M.B.C.C.E.D. (5) unknown	(1) unknown (2) unknown (3) unknown (4) 8th March 1913	Wm Allardice Friend Forest Road	G.M. Heeder	(1) Wm Allardice (2) March 1913 (3) Church of England Cemetery Sutherland (4) Hurstville	(1) 9th March 1913 (2) Seraphim Phokas (3) Greek Orthodox Church (4) Wm Allardice	(1) Hurstville (2) Greece (3) 52 years in N.S.W.	(1) Single (2) (3)			
I, TREVOR STACEY HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE COPY OF PARTICULARS RECORDED IN A REGISTER KEPT BY ME.														
ISSUED AT SYDNEY 28TH APRIL, 1999														
REGISTRAR														