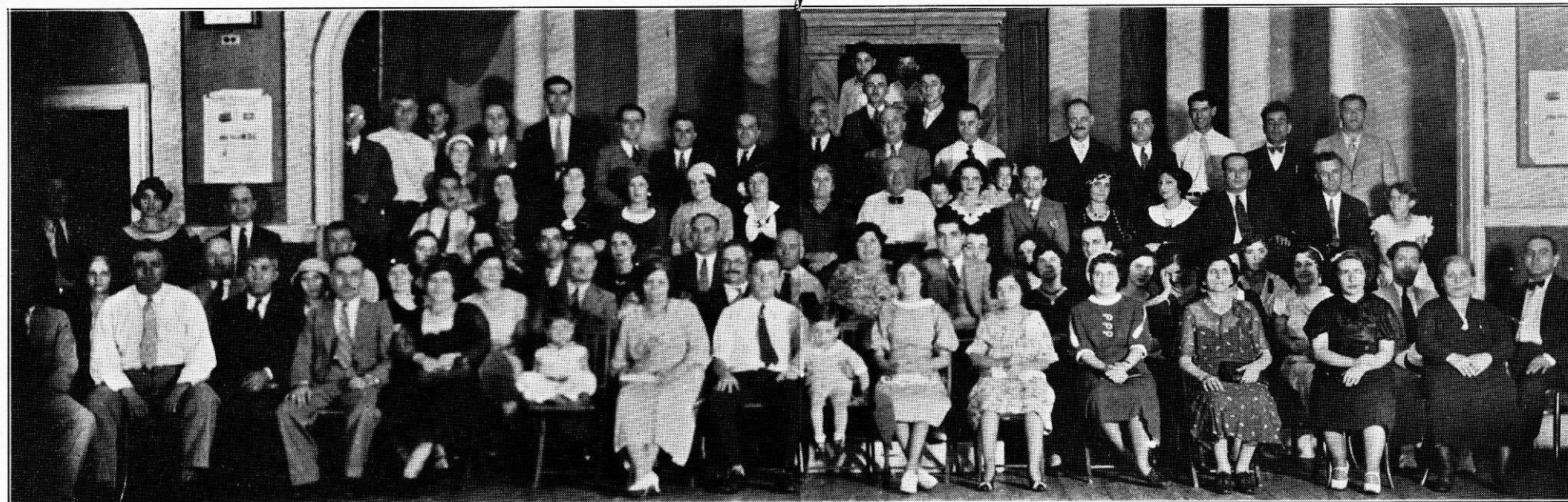


# *First Reunion Held In Huntington*

## *Labor Day 1932*



WERE YOU THERE?

WHO'S WHO?

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## A HISTORY OF THE KFEIRIAN REUNION

By: SOL N. STEFFAN, Williamson, W. Va.

In 1932, an informal gathering of Kfeirians was held in Huntington, W. Va., where Mike Abraham of Williamson, W. Va., was the principal speaker on this occasion, which was marked by gaiety and fellowship. During this affair it was suggested that this be an annual gathering so that the children of Kfeirian descent may become acquainted with each other and a closer relationship may be formed among them. Receiving widespread approval the suggestion was adopted. An organized club known as the Kfeirian Brotherhood of Toledo, Ohio, then requested the subsequent meeting for the following year.

During the year 1933, the Kfeirians assembled once again in Toledo, Ohio, where the Kfeirian Brotherhood was the host group. It was at this meeting that the name, *Kfeirian Reunion*, was established. Kfeirians of Huntington invited the assembly to return to their city, and since that time the annual meeting has been rotated among the following cities: Cleveland and Toledo, Ohio; Beckley, Williamson, Huntington, and Charleston, W. Va. At that time Kfeirians in host cities entertained the Reunion at their own expense.

Williamson, W. Va., was the site of the 1936 Kfeirian Reunion, when it was decided at the business session that an admission fee would be charged to defray expenses of the event. This fee was to be initiated after cities with enough Kfeirians to handle the Reunion were afforded the opportunity to have the gathering at the expense of the host city. This custom is still handled accordingly.

During the early years of the Reunion the event was informal, and there was no record of its legal existence. From its inception to the present the Reunion has been an annual gathering for descendants from the little village in Lebanon, known as Kfeir, and it has met for the solemn purpose that Kfeirians and their descendants may be better acquainted in the Land of the Free. The event's meeting time has been set for the Labor Day Weekend in order that participants may take advantage of the holiday period.

Farris Bey El Kourey was the Guest of Honor at the Reunion in Huntington, in 1948. At his request a pledge of \$15,000 was made by the assembly for the purpose of providing electricity for Kfeir, Lebanon. This move also led to the formation of the Kfeirian Foundation, Inc., which was chartered in the state of Ohio and established in 1949 to handle all business and legal matters.

Under its present system the Foundation is progressing and many of its functions have been turned over to the young generation of Kfeirian descent. Its source of revenue has been the profits derived from the annual assembly and the Everlasting Flower Fund, established in memory of deceased Kfeirians. Originated by the immigrants from the Kfeir, the Reunion Foundation has developed to a known organization which is capable of rendering material, physical, educational, and cultural service to the Kfeir and Kfeirians wherever they may be.

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*In seeking information concerning the history of the Kfeirian Reunion, the committee received an item of interest from George Kerbawy of Blissfield, Mich. This was a copy of the constitution of the Kfeirian Brotherhood, formed in Toledo, Ohio, in 1917.*

## PROGRAM

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1957

- 1 to 5 P. M. — REGISTRATION ..... Lobby, Prichard Hotel  
1 to 5 P. M. — SWIM PARTY ..... Dreamland  
7 to 10 P. M. — REGISTRATION ..... Lobby, Hotel Prichard  
9 P. M. to 2 A. M. — INFORMAL GATHERING  
Room 203  
Mezzanine Prichard Hotel

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1957

- 9 A. M. — REGISTRATION ..... Lobby, Hotel Prichard  
11 A. M. — DIVINE LITURGY  
St. George's Greek Orthodox Church, corner of  
7th Street and 11th Avenue. Metropolitan Arch-  
bishop Anthony Bashir, officiating, assisted by  
Reverend Wakeem Dalack.  
2 to 5 P. M. — TEEN-AGE MIX  
Bridge Room — Mezzanine Prichard Hotel  
5 to 6 P. M. — COCKTAIL PARTY  
Room 203 Mezzanine  
6:30 P. M. — DINNER ..... Ballroom  
9 P. M. to 1 A. M. — SILVER JUBILEE FUN PARTY  
Ballroom

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1957

- 9 A. M. — REGISTRATION ..... Lobby, Prichard Hotel  
1 to 3 P. M. — BUSINESS MEETING ..... Mezzanine  
Rooms 202 - 203 - 204 - 205  
5 to 6 P. M. — COCKTAIL HOUR ..... Mezzanine  
Room 208  
6:30 P. M. — GRAND BANQUET ..... Ballroom  
9:30 to 1:30 A. M. — ANNIVERSARY BALL ..... Ballroom