

From Rubble to Roots: Mapping Genealogical Data and Cultural Heritage in Post-Earthquake Antioch



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Introduction

In the wake of the devastating earthquake in Antioch, we face an urgent task: tracing genealogical roots and documenting the cultural heritage that lies buried beneath the rubble.

This presentation will explore the importance of adopting a multi-methodological approach that integrates large databases like FamilySearch with qualitative methodologies, including oral history and ethnography, as well as active engagement with both diaspora and homeland communities.

J.R. (José Rafael) Medeiros Coelho, MA

As a PhD Candidate and Teaching & Research Staff member at the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, my academic journey is deeply rooted in history, anthropology and sociology

My PhD research, titled "Ottoman Arab Migrations to Latin America (Antioch-São Paulo): Mapping Transnational Hubs, Networks, and Cultural Heritage,"

Delves into the migration history of Ottoman Arab Christians to Latin America during the 19th and 20th centuries.



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*Antakya as a Homeland:
Remains home to Türkiye's largest Arab Christian community*



In the garden of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antakya.
Abdullah Sert's Family Archives

Listening to the Ethnographic Field: An Encounter with Brazil in Antakya, 2018-2020





Research Objectives

- **Migration History:** Disentangle the migration histories of Arab Christian families to São Paulo from a global and micro perspective;
- **Transnational Hubs:** Focus on Antioch and São Paulo as key transnational hubs allowing circulation/mobility between diaspora and homeland;
- **Network Mapping:** Map the circulation of (post-)Ottoman Arab Christian migrants, institutions, forms of capital, and social, religious, and cultural networks;
- **Heritage Preservation:** Digitize, document, and preserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage linked to these migrations, including genealogical archival and oral history data, and family records.

“Entangled Histories” Antakya (أنطاكية)

- Waves of Migration:
 - ◆ Late 19th - Mid-20th Century
 - ◆ Driven by complex historical, political, and socioeconomic entanglements
- Antioch as a Hub:
 - ◆ Under Ottoman rule within Aleppo’s Sanjak of Antakya
- Shifts in Governance:
 - ◆ French Mandate in Syria post-Ottoman Empire
 - ◆ Annexed by Türkiye in 1939 as the Province of Hatay.



Archival Types	Archives
Government & Public Records	• The Prime Minister's Ottoman Archives in Istanbul • The Public Archive of the State of São Paulo • Immigration Museum of São Paulo
Periodicals	• Brazilian National Library • The Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality's Atatürk Library • Kaslik University Library's Brazilian al Mahjar periodicals collection.
Family & Institutional Records	• Family Collections (ego, biographical documents) • Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral of São Paulo • Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch's records • Antiochian Society of Brazil's library







How can genealogical data and cultural heritage under rubble be mapped and preserved in post-earthquake Antioch?

- Fieldwork Challenges:

Families dispersed across Türkiye (İstanbul, Ankara, Iskenderun, etc.)

Inaccessible church archives and temporarily unknown archival conditions

- Alternative methodologies:

Multi-sited fieldwork: Istanbul & Antakya, 2024 - May - Sep

- Focus on Collecting Diasporic Fragments of memory: biographical documents & oral testimonies, archival genealogies



Assessment of Archival Sources and Ethnographic Fieldwork, May - Sep 2024

Undertaking Ethnographic fieldwork with Antiochian Arab Orthodox Families

- Establishing Connections & collecting Private Archives
- Organizing Oral Interviews
- Tracing roots: Key family names living in the diaspora and homeland





Preserving Diasporic Fragments

"Miryan Granny and Children"
Photo from 1927, São Paulo.

Encountered & Digitized at
Stephan Jewelry Shop, Uzun
Çarşısı, 2024.

Stephan Family Archive
Digitized by J.R.M. Coelho, 2024



Sociedade União Antiochiana – 1925 – 2024



Seated: Elie Aboud Kabarity, Gerjy Abdul hak, Amin Wakil, Mrs. Adele Najeeb Khoury, Mrs. Mariana Rahmouh, Mrs. Salma Najeeb Khoury, Hanna Najeeb Khoury, Elias Arab, Alexy Abdul hak.

Standing: Rizk Allah Kassis, Nicholas Obeida, Hanna Aydah, Salim Najeeb Khoury, Saba Abdul Maseeh Saba, Ebrahim Tadheesh, Elie Abdullah Dardakiye, Rizk Allah Najeeb Khoury, Hanna Kassis, Noury Shehadeh, Zakrouz Bsharah Mashta, Amin Hosh, Salim Afira, Gerjy Abdo, Hanna Abdullah Dardakiye.

With love to your esteemed father and sisters,

Amin & Iskandar



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DISTRICTO DA SE'

Faço saber que pretendem casar-se Messias Nahas e d. Catharina Kabarite, ambos solteiros, naturaes da cidade de Antiochia, na Syria, domiciliados e residentes neste districto, á rua 25 de Março, n. 167, sob.; aquelle, filho legitimo de Gabriel Nahas e de d. Maria Nahas, fallecidos, com 23 annos de idade, negociante; esta, filha legitima de Jacob Kabarite, fallecido, e de d. Maria Kabarite, residente neste districto, com 20 annos de idade, de prendas domesticas.

Exhibiram os documentos da lei. Faço publico, e, si alguem souber de algum impedimento, accusa-o para os fins de direito.

Sé, 5 de outubro de 1918.

O official,
B. Glaugiacomo.

KUPCIAS

ENLACE OLIVEIRA-ABATI

Realizou-se ante-hontem, nesta capital, o enlace matrimonial da distincta senhorita Adelia Conti de Oliveira, dilecta filha do sr. José Francisco de Oliveira, administrador geral do Desinfectorio Central, e de sua exma. esposa, ora, d. Paschoa Maria Conti de Oliveira, com o sr. João Americo Abati, funcionario daquelle estabelecimento.

Os actos effectuaram-se na residência dos paes da noiva, á rua Marquê, n. 23, sendo paranymphe, no civil, por parte do noivo, o sr. Alberto Conti de Oliveira, e, por parte da noiva, o sr. Avelino Alves Machado; e no religioso, os mesmos ora, e as oraes, d.d. Zenalde Mello de Oliveira, por parte da noiva, e d. Narciso Machado, por parte do noivo.

Após a celebração dos actos, foi servida aos presentes uma mesa de finos doces, seguindo-se animada e alegre dança que se prolongou até á madrugada.

...

Participam-nos o seu casamento, realizado no dia 5 do corrente, o sr. Isidoro da Silva Leite e sua esposa, ora, d. Isabel Pedrosa Leite, residentes em Prainha, neste Estado.

...

Devem effectuar-se proximamente nesta capital, para o que os proclamas respectivos já estão sendo publicados, os seguintes consorcios:

- Amaro Felix Machado e dona Julia Pires de Oliveira;
- João Rodrigues Guentardo Junior e d. Maria Antonia Palombo;
- Eurico Romeu e d. Catharina Josephina Faraldi;
- Pedro Ferreira Guedes e d. Glemma Emma Masconi;
- Antonio Ramos Toledo e d. Julieta Rodgero;
- Abdul Kabarite e d. Gloria Pimenta;
- Julio Virgilio Tinto e d. Luitza Bisdolfi.

DISTRICTO DO BRAZ

Faço saber que pretendem casar-se Abbud Kabarite e dona Gloria Pimenta; aquelle, filho legitimo de Jacob Kabarite e Mariana Kabarite, aquelle, fallecido, com 34 annos de idade, solteiro guarda-livros, natural da Syria (Antiochia), residente neste districto; esta, filha legitima de Antonio José Pimenta e Luitza Soares Pimenta, com 21 annos de idade, solteira, natural de Portugal, e residente neste districto.

Exhibiram os documentos exigidos pela lei.

Para conhecimento de todos faço publico, e, si alguem souber de algum impedimento, accusa-o para os fins de direito.

Braz, 18 de julho de 1918.

O official,
Osorio Mario dos Santos

Source: Brazilian National Library, Correio Paulistano, Anos 1910

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FamilySearch:

- Use existing its genealogical databases to trace family lineages, cross-referencing data with archival records for accuracy.
- Digitized Archival Materials: Access its digitized archives from local, regional, and global institutions to gather birth, marriage, death, and migration records.



Brazil, São Paulo, Civil Registration, 1925-2023

Births, marriages, deaths and indexes created by various civil registration offices in the state of São Paulo. Some of these records have been indexed and are searchable as part of this collection. Additional images and indexed records will be published as they become available.

 HOW TO USE THIS COLLECTION

First Names

Last Names

Place

Year

 SEARCH

[MORE OPTIONS](#)



Cite This Collection

"Brasil, São Paulo, Registro Civil, 1925-2023." Database. *FamilySearch*. <https://FamilySearch.org> : 20 December 2024. Corregedor geral da justica (General Court of Justice), Sao Paulo.

[COPY CITATION](#)

All results for Abbud Kabarite

11 Results

Search



First Names: Abbud
Last Names: Kabarite
Birth: Sao Paulo

Filters

- All Collections 11
- Birth, Marriage, & Death 11
- Family Tree Profiles 0
- Memories
- Genealogies 
- Catalog 
- Books 
- Image Only Records 

Try this search on other sites

-  Ancestry →
-  MyHeritage →
-  Findmypast →

Abbud Kabarites

Sex: Male
Other
Brazil, São Paulo, Civil Registration, 1925-2023



Sousatis

Occupation General

Sex: Unknown
Other
Brazil, São Paulo, Civil Registration, 1925-2023



Kamente

Sex: Unknown
Other
Brazil, São Paulo, Civil Registration, 1925-2023



Abbud Kabarites

Mentioned in the Record of [Eduardo de Aguiar Lavradez](#)
Birth • Brasil, São Paulo, Registro Civil, 1925-2023

[SAVE](#)[EDIT](#)[SHARE](#)

This record was indexed by a computer.
find an error,

[CLICK HERE TO REPORT IT.](#)

Tree

[ATTACH TO TREE](#)

Similar Records

No similar records were found.

Name **Abbud Kabarites**

Sex **M**

Other People on This Record

[OPEN ALL](#)

[Ventura de Aguiar](#)

M

▼

[Lucinda Soares de Aguiar](#)

F

▼

[Eduardo de Aguiar Lavradez](#)

M

São Paulo, São Paulo, Brasil

▲

Name [Eduardo de Aguiar Lavradez](#)

Sex **Male**

Event Type **Birth**

Event Date **2019**

▼

Event Place **São Paulo, São Paulo, Brasil**

[João de Aguiar Lavra- Dez](#)

M

▼

[Eduardo de Souza Pinto](#)

M

▼

[Celestino Pangaldo](#)

M

▼

[Abbud Rabarite](#)

M

▼

[Anto- No José Pimenta](#)

M

▼

[Josephado Amaral](#)

F

▼

[Per- Mezes Pardave](#)

M

▼

[Lui- Ra Soares Pimenta](#)

M

▼

[Antonio Rodrigues](#)

M

▼

[Check Image Availability](#)

Document Information

Collection Information

[Brasil, São Paulo, Registro Civil, 1925-2023](#)

Cite This Record

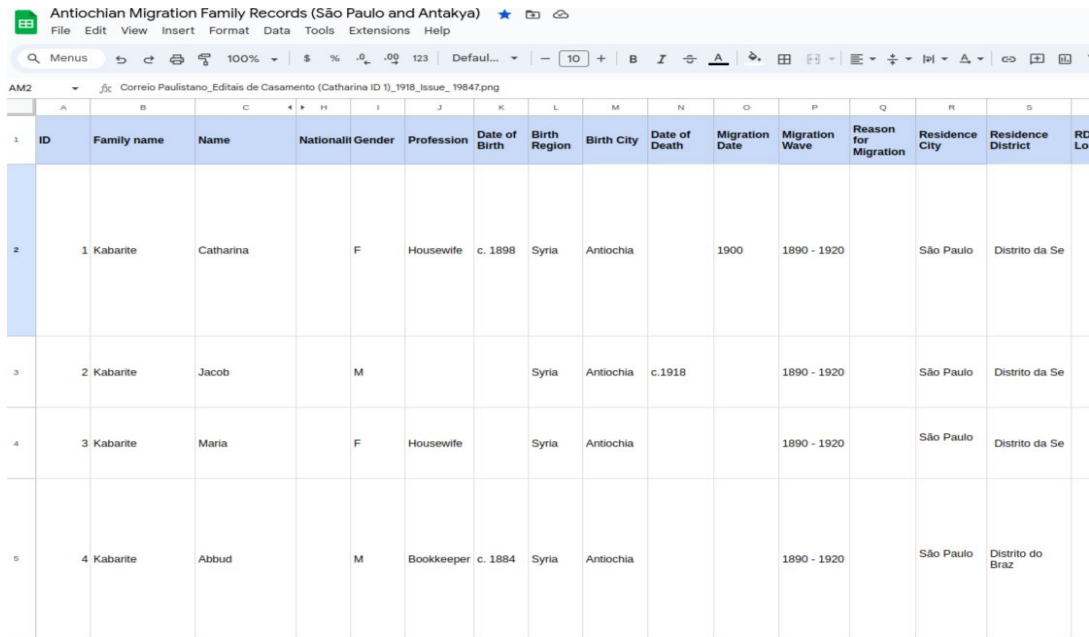
"Brasil, São Paulo, Registro Civil, 1925-2023", , ,
FamilySearch
(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6V4N-537T> : Fri Mar 08 11:35:02 UTC 2024), Entry for Ventura de Aguiar and Lucinda Soares de Aguiar, 0019.

[Copy Citation](#)

From Rubble to Roots: Genealogical Archival Collection and Database Building

Cross-Analyzing Data

- Ethnographic, Oral History, Genealogical Archival Data Integration
- Enhancing Database on Antiochian Family Records



ID	Family name	Name	Nationality	Gender	Profession	Date of Birth	Birth Region	Birth City	Date of Death	Migration Date	Migration Wave	Reason for Migration	Residence City	Residence District	RD
1	Kabarite	Catharina	F	Housewife	c. 1898	Syria	Antiochia	1900	1890 - 1920				São Paulo	Distrito da Se	
2	Kabarite	Jacob	M				Syria	Antiochia	c.1918	1890 - 1920			São Paulo	Distrito da Se	
3	Kabarite	Maria	F	Housewife		Syria	Antiochia	1890 - 1920					São Paulo	Distrito da Se	
4	Kabarite	Abbud	M	Bookkeeper	c. 1884	Syria	Antiochia	1890 - 1920					São Paulo	Distrito do Braz	

Results & Discussion: From Rubble to Roots: Mapping Genealogical Data and Cultural Heritage

Preliminary Findings

- ◆ Start mapping the genealogy of major families and their roles in the formation of diaspora communities, and institutions such as Arquidiocese Ortodoxa Antioquina de São Paulo and the Sociedade União Antiochina.
- ◆ Building genealogical trees, linking Antiochian diaspora and its homeland.

Next Steps (2025)

- Planned archival and ethnographic research in Brazil
 - ◆ Cross-analysis of FamilySearch, church records, Institutional archives, periodicals, and oral history interviews

Concluding Remarks

In the wake of the devastating earthquake in Antioch, the task of tracing genealogical roots and documenting cultural heritage buried under rubble has become more urgent than ever. To achieve this, it is indispensable to adopt a multi-methodological approach that integrates large databases like FamilySearch with qualitative methodologies such as oral history, ethnography, and active engagement with diaspora and homeland communities.

These combined efforts are not only vital for uncovering and preserving the rich heritage of Antiochian families but also for developing open-source archives that ensure this heritage is accessible to future generations.

Together, we can rebuild not just the physical structures, but also the cultural and familial roots that form the foundation of Antioch's legacy.

Thank you for listening!

For further questions or inquiries, feel free to contact me:

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