

March 12, 1982

Mrs. Florence Chakerian
1512 Alvarado Drive, N.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Dear Mrs. Chakerian:

We have received your letter regarding your article which will be used in the forthcoming issue of "Ararat Quarterly" concerning Mariam Davis.

We understand Mrs. Davis' anxiety and desire to find out her roots. But it is most unfortunate that all records were criminally burnt or destroyed during the genocide, together with the churches where most of them were kept. At that time, no records of individuals, born outside of Istanbul or Jerusalem, were kept at the Patriarchates. Most births, marriages and deaths were registered in family Bibles and these relics have perished. This is the unfortunate tragedy of many Armenians whose parents were born in the provinces of Turkey. If Mrs. Davis can find some elder Armenians from Erzeroum where her family resided, perhaps one of them may remember about her family and give her some information.

May the Lord bless you and your loved ones always.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate