About the Cover

Here is a photograph that tells more stories than one. It was taken after a Bakourah meeting with members of Branch #1 in Cleveland during 1921. This photo was given to Kathy Jaber Stephenson by Jeanette Andary. Her late husband Ajaj was entrusted with the picture by our beloved Nafe Katter from Saginaw, Michigan. How Uncle Nafe came into possession of the photograph, we do not know.

We see the men sitting around a dining room table, some serious and dignified, some smiling and friendly. They are all Druze, and more than likely, they are all immigrants to America.

We wonder if the meeting took place in this room. There is food and drink around the table. Perhaps the men served themselves as they perused the table deciding what to choose.

In the photo background, three women shyly look into the culture of that time: in the background, not seen, not heard, but more than likely much appreciated for their good cooking.

We know from other stories about the Bakourah, that the women did cook for their meetings, often held in their homes.

Most poignantly, in the center of the picture, a man is holding a child, while another child peers inquisitively between two men. We could easily surmise the children's symbolic meaning in the Bakourah – that of the future prodigy who most likely are first-born Druze Americans – the very reason these men are here- in this country.

Our hearts are warmed by the deep meanings inside this picture, and we are most grateful to the photographer who had the honor of taking it. Were that we were there- on that day- in that place. What a blessing that would have been.

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