



## The medieval settlement of Paliomasara

At the east side of the occupied village Massari there is in a distance of half a km an area named "The Old Massari". This name was given of a medieval settlement that had its own special and



very important historical importance, because until the year 1570, at the ending of Venetian occupancy, it was a separate village "casali" that was considered as one of the 12 zones of Cyprus, under the command of Penatayia region (caza). The settlement next to it was Prasteio and was a very small village.

During the period of Turkish occupation (1570 - 1878) some of the villages were merged together to

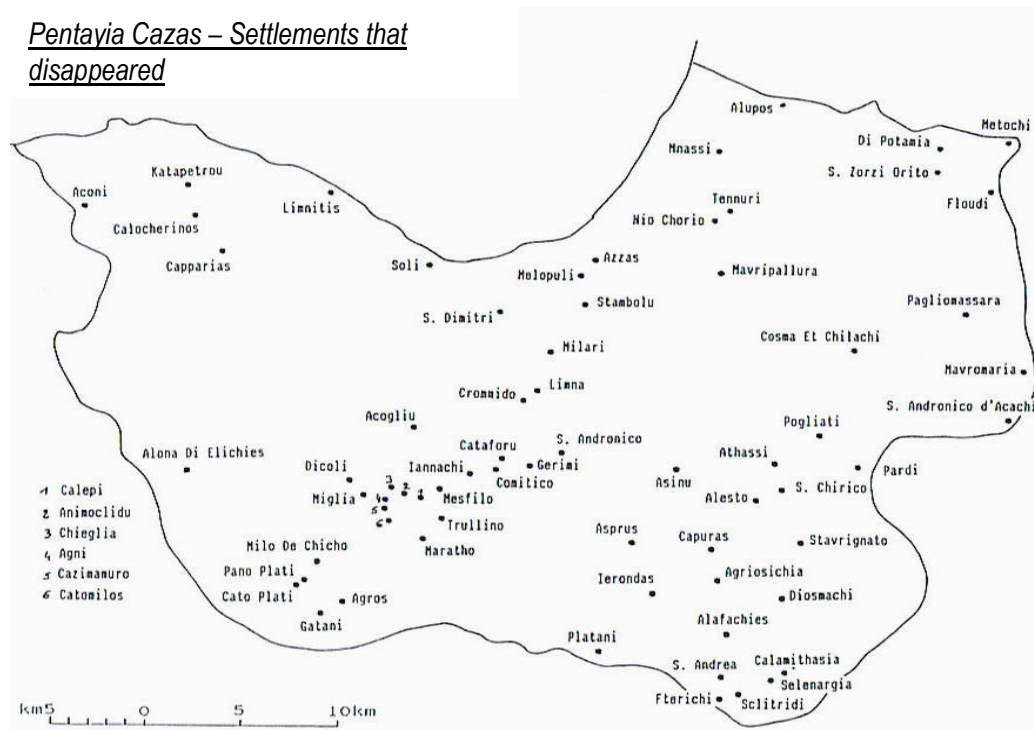
form bigger ones in order for the Rulers to be able to be control them more easily.

During that period there is the moving of the Massari villagers from the old settlement to the newer settlement of Massari and at the 15<sup>th</sup> century they have created a chapel for Ayio Antonio in the area.

Even today you will be able to find debris in the area of "Old Massari" such as old houses remnants big caves used as houses or to house animals, the old mill and big old wells. Until the year 1974 and before the Turkish invasion one could find in the area scattered antiquities such as clay vessels and piths. Somewhere between the truth and the tradition, lays the story for a big jar found in the area between 1880-1890 containing gold coins and other antiquities. According to stories transferred from mouth to mouth by the villagers this was a reason for a number of incidents such as scams, disputes and by-outs of slaves. At the area where it was believed to be found one can still see a big hollow on the ground that could fit the size of the container.

Other area names found in the region where "Old Massari" (Paliomassara) was found were Paliambela.

## Pentayia Cazas – Settlements that disappeared





## ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΜΑΣΣΑΡΙ

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According to the book of the French Gilles Grivaud, “*Villages Desertes A Chipre*” in page 213 there are certain references to an area called “Old Massari” (Paliomassara).

*it is said that in 1374 there is a reference of the village by the Cypriot Chronographer Leontio Machaira that refers to Paliomassara, in paragraph 555 and mentions that they were given as Royal sponsorship to the Venetian Nicolo Zacharia...*

In 1468 there is a reference to the villages of Avlonas and Paliomassara..

Finally in the population inventory in 1565 there is a reference of 16 residents at the village Paliomassara (excluding the serfs, the women and the children). At the same inventory at Massari there were recorded 45 residents.

At the 16th century which is also characterized as the golden century of Cypriot cartography the Venetians used advanced methods of mapping and

imprinting. All the names were given with their Venetian variant of Greek names of that period. Thus therefore in these first maps Massari is reported as Masara (*Matheo Pagano - Isola de Cipro, Venice 1538 and [Paliomassara] as Pa (g) liomassara. (Francesca Cavazzana Romanelli, Gilles Grivaud - Cyprus 1542-The Great map of the island by Leonida Attar)*

Special reports on Paliomassara can be found as well in the book “*An Historical Toponymy of Cyprus vol. 2 p. 1250*” of J. B. Goodwin, as well as in the edition of “*The villages of Cyprus*”, Lamaca 1952, page 143 written by N G Kyriazi.

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