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FROM THE ETHNO-HISTORY OF THE GEORGIAN REPATRIATES OF IANETI

(According to the family names' ethnographic data)

The ethno historical study of the family names of the Moslem Georgians, who in the 40s of the 20th century were displaced from the historical region of Meskheta, but still, in exile, retained Georgian mentality and are now repatriated in the village of Ianeti, west Georgia, reveals the following: 1). Repatriates of the village of Ianeti regard Georgia as their homeland, and Georgian language as their native tongue. 2). they refer to their ancestors as *dzveli*. 3). before the exile their common religion (at least informally) was Orthodox Christianity. They observed rituals and holidays anticipated according to the Christian faith, particularly, *The Resurrection*, calling it as: *ours*, our holiday, even today. 4). When being forced to change their family names they adopted their ancestors' names. 5). the word 'ierli' or 'local' is used to refer all who were deported from historical Meskheta and Samtskhe-Javakheti. 6). There is the tendency that those who have returned in their fatherland restore their original family names. 7). rarely but still we see the tradition to attach their