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GEORGIAN FAMILY-NAMES

(On the example of ethnographic materials of some upper-Acharan villages)

Earlier or more modern political histories have left their traces on the formation of family-names but the mentality of the people with relation to the function of family-names has remained unchanged.

The study of family names of some upper-Acharan villages attests the cases of formation of family names independently. Acharan Georgians would move to different regions of Georgia to maintain their Christian faith. There are also facts of their relocation within the Achara region.

To denote the ancestral family-names they used “ganarigi/gamrigo’ and ‘jishi’, based on the name of the ancestor.

They also followed common Georgian tradition of forming woman family names.

Those Georgians of Didachara who had been converted to Moslem faith avoided mixing with Turkish communities and continued to make their journeys to holy Christian places for praying and worshiping.

There are also evidences of traditions of living in large extended families. The type of abode was called “cherebiani” (*cheri* means log).

The material is also interesting for the study of Acharan dialect.