

Abridged Chronology of the Ashurov and Malikov Families

18th century Baku

The Ashurov family was first recorded as a merchant family in the mid-18th century, in Baku, Azerbaijan. The family first came to prominence when headed by Ashur Zamangulu oglu Ashurov, who lived from around the later C17th, until the early C18th.

1823

Birth of *Hajji* **Gurban Ashur oglu** (born after 1823 until 1876). Highly successful merchant. He had four sons, including the locally famous Aslan and Iskander.

In 1876, Gurban was admitted to the First Guild of Merchants (one of the first Azeri muslims to be admitted to the First Guild).

One of the other leading families of the Azeri merchant class in Baku was the Malikov family; which was also a family of long-standing nobility. They traded widely outside of Azerbaijan from the nineteenth century onwards. Several became leading members of Baku's Second Guild of merchants.



1853

Birth of **Hajji Aslan Ashurov** (born c. 1853 - after 1909). The eldest of four brothers, he came an international Azeri merchant; prominent local figure; and member of the Baku City Duma.

Aslan Ashurov transforms the family's fortunes from a successful Baku merchant family into one of very considerable wealth and international reach. The family becomes one of the most distinguished and powerful in the city.

The family were known to be respected leaders in the Azeri muslim community. Aslan was also a staunch monarchist and supporter of Tsarist rule. Aslan built one of the grandest houses, the family palace, in Baku, in 1887. Sadly this palace is now destroyed (in the Communist era) and the street where it was located, Telfonnaya Street, does not exist.

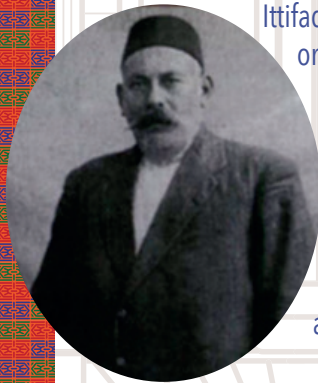
The plans for the building, however, have been used for the logo for this website.



1859

Birth of **Ali Iskander Ashurov** (known as Iskander Ashurov) (born 1859 - after 1907). Third son and brother of Aslan. Member of the Baku City Duma.

Politically, Iskander was perhaps the best known of this generation of Ashurovs. He was a prominent member of the All-Russia Congress of Muslims and also of the Ittifaqi al-muslimin political party*. The Ittifaqi al-muslimin party was a fairly progressive organisation which aimed for Muslims in Russia to act politically as a united front.



*The Ittifaqi al-muslimin party managed to secure around 30 seats in the first all-Russia State Duma (which was created following the 1905 Russian revolution) and in the second State Duma.

1861

Birth of **Hacibaba Ashurov** (born 1861 - after 1901). Cousin of Aslan (Hacibaba's father, *Hajji Jabbar Gasim oglu*, was the nephew of Aslan's father, *Hajji Gurban Ashur oglu*). Owned an electric power station in Baku built in 1906. Also a member of the Baku City Duma.



1886

Birth of **Agha Ashurov** (1886 - 1936). Second son of Aslan Ashurov. Educated in Kharkiv (then part of imperial Russia) and Germany, he was a talented engineer, before entering politics. Married a German wife.

Agha would become one of the founding fathers of the first independent Republic of Azerbaijan (1918-1920), following the October Revolution that saw the overthrow of the Tsars and collapse of the Russian empire.



1882-1918 Five members of the Ashurov family sit as members in the Baku City Duma, at various dates. This included (from 1904 until 1918) the two Ashurov brothers (Aslan and Iskander) and their cousin, Hacibaba: the three of whom had also merged their business assets together.

1890s Baku City records show that, in 1898, the Ashurovs had become major traders and shipowners.

The Ashurov Brothers Trading Company is recorded as owning 5 steamships, 3 barques (three masted sailing ships); 5 additional sailing ships, and 8 barges. The family also owned the Ashurov & Company Power Station business.

1893

Birth of *Meshadi* **Teymur Malikov** (born 1893 - 1971). Teymur was an immensely successful merchant trader who, despite confiscations during the Bolshevik revolution, managed to rebuild the family's fortune.

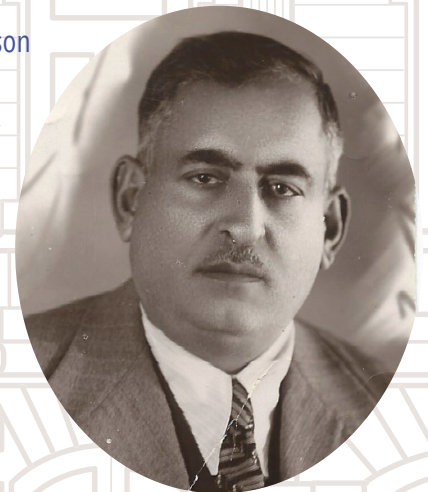
He also survived two rounds of internal political exile by the Soviet regime. He traded widely within the Tsarist Russian and Ottoman empires, and with Iran. Most of the family fortune was confiscated by the Bolsheviks, but tenacious Teymur regained it, and more, by helping the new USSR trade with the outside world. He earned the very rare and important certificate of 'Red Merchant' for the USSR (this was during the 1921-28 period of the New Economic Policy, or 'NEP'). During this time Teymur became very wealthy and expanded the family's asset base in Iran, in particular. He married Aslan Ashurov's daughter, Kyubra.

Teymur was arrested and persecuted, as an 'NEP-man', and was sent into internal exile in Kazakhstan. He was allowed to return to Baku in 1932.

The family was again to suffer political repression in 1941 - doubtless because of their connections with pro-British Shahist Iran - and was exiled again to Kazakhstan in 1941, where the family endured many privations. They were able to return to Baku, after an intervening period in Soviet Dagestan, in 1947.

Formally regarded as nobility, the Malikov family fortune had grown considerably down the generations; particularly under Teymur's grandfather, **Melikmuhammad** (dates unknown) and father, *Meshadi* **Keble Hassan Ali** (dates unknown). Keble Hassan expanded the family's trade with Iran, and established some large fruit (particularly orange) orchards in the sub-tropical, southern part of Iran; trading these north to Azerbaijan and the wider Russian empire.

Later, Keble Hassan Ali would send his middle son (and Teymur's brother), **Agha Mehti**, to live permanently in Iran to run the family's property, trade and agricultural interests there. Agha Mehti did not marry and, upon his death in 1957, Teymur inherited this branch of the family's considerable wealth (based in capitalist Iran).

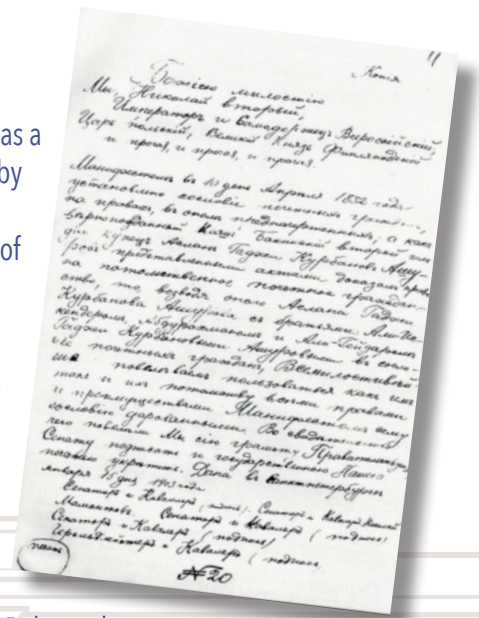


1903

Aslan Ashurov is honoured by **Tsar Nicholas II**: granted the title of Honoured Citizen of the Russian Empire.

Honoured Citizenship of the Russian Empire was a new social rank in the Russian empire created by Tsar Nicholas I in 1832. It was awarded to distinguished and highly successful members of the non-noble, urban wealthy.

Membership granted exemptions from certain taxes and electoral suffrage in certain elections. Aslan was awarded one of the highest forms, with his rank and privileges being hereditary to his sons and their male heirs.



1905

First **Russian Revolution**: ethnic conflicts in Western Azerbaijan (now Armenia), and numerous terrorist actions in Baku.

Aslan Ashurov participated in the defence of Baku and, afterwards, worked for reconciliation between ethnic groups. He survived an assassination attempt, in the streets of Baku, near the family palace. The family also survived three attempts by anarchists, in 1908, to plant bombs near the family palace. Aslan Ashurov remained a staunch defender of Tsarist rule. Aslan Ashurov ensured much of the family's wealth was safely deposited overseas including in Ottoman Turkey and in a number of western European countries, including Switzerland.

1917

October Bolshevik Revolution

Collapse of the Tsarist empire

1918-1920

First Republic of Azerbaijan

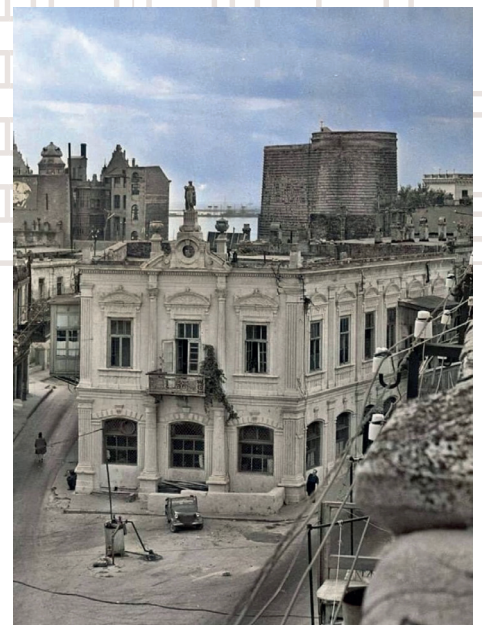
Agha Ashurov was one of the leading members of independent Azerbaijan's parliament, created in May 1918, and a member of the governments of the period. He served, variously, as minister of trade (re-establishing Azeri-Ottoman trade), minister for food and minister of post and telegraph. As the Bolsheviks sought to take Azerbaijan by force and subsume it into Soviet Russia, Agha was the sole member of the Azeri parliament to vote against capitulation and transfer of power to the Soviet Union. For this he was arrested. He died in internal exile, in southern Russia, in 1936.

1920-1992

Communist period

Discussion of the business and political merits of the Ashurov dynasty were actively repressed in Baku. Surviving members of the Ashurov dynasty faced suppression by the Soviet authorities and the loss of a large amount of their property and assets in the Soviet Union. Some assets and family-controlled bank accounts remained, dormant, overseas, until the 1990s.

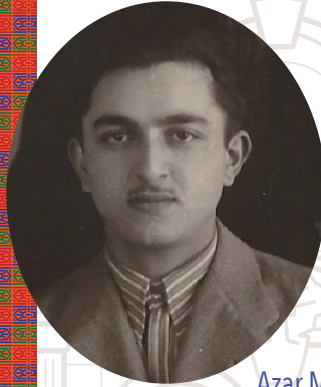
Teymur Malikov, Azar Malikov's father, successfully led the family efforts to secure restitution both of his family's wealth and that of his wife (the daughter of Aslan Ashurov); and to protect the family from deportation. The family also received back some of its Baku possessions (but not the Malikov family palace on Boyuk Qala Street, which now houses the Azeri national museum for archaeology and ethnology).



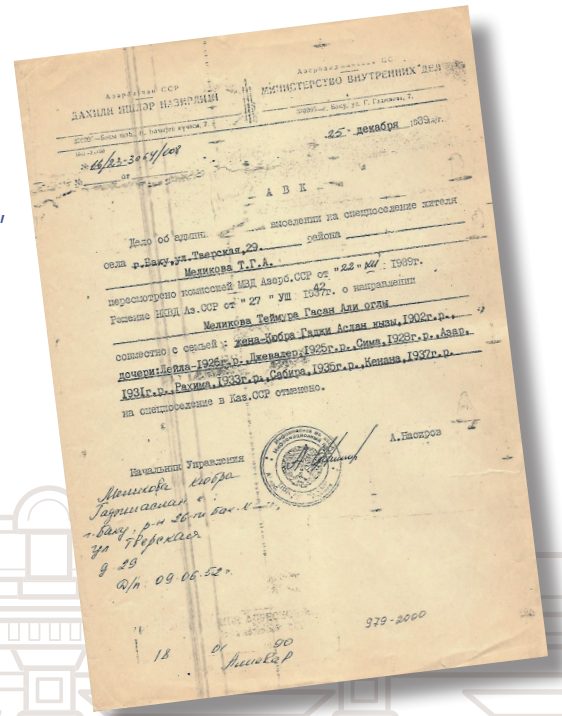
1931

Birth of **Azar Malikov** (1931 - 2019). Maternal grandfather to, and mentor of, **Anar Mahmudov**. Azar's mother was **Kyubra Khanum Ashurova** (b. 1902 - 1995) was daughter of **Aslan Ashurov**; sister of Agha Ashurov. Azar Malikov's father was **Teymur Malikov**.

In 1971, Azar Malikov inherited the Teymur Malikov family home in Baku (but not the Malikov family palace on Boyuk Qala Street, now a state museum). Azar inherited Ashurov family assets via his mother, Kyubra, upon her death in 1995.



As part of the old merchant class, the Malikov family faced repression from the Soviet Communist regime. Indeed, the USSR did not formally rehabilitate the Malikov family, cancelling their long-standing political repression, until 1990.



Azar Malikov, son of Teymur Malikov, would become a respected oil and gas engineer. After Azeri independence, he became a successful oil executive and entrepreneur: he was awarded by the Azeri government the title: 'Honoured Engineer of Azerbaijan'. Azar Malikov was a loving grandfather and supported all his grandchildren with education and business throughout his life.



1936

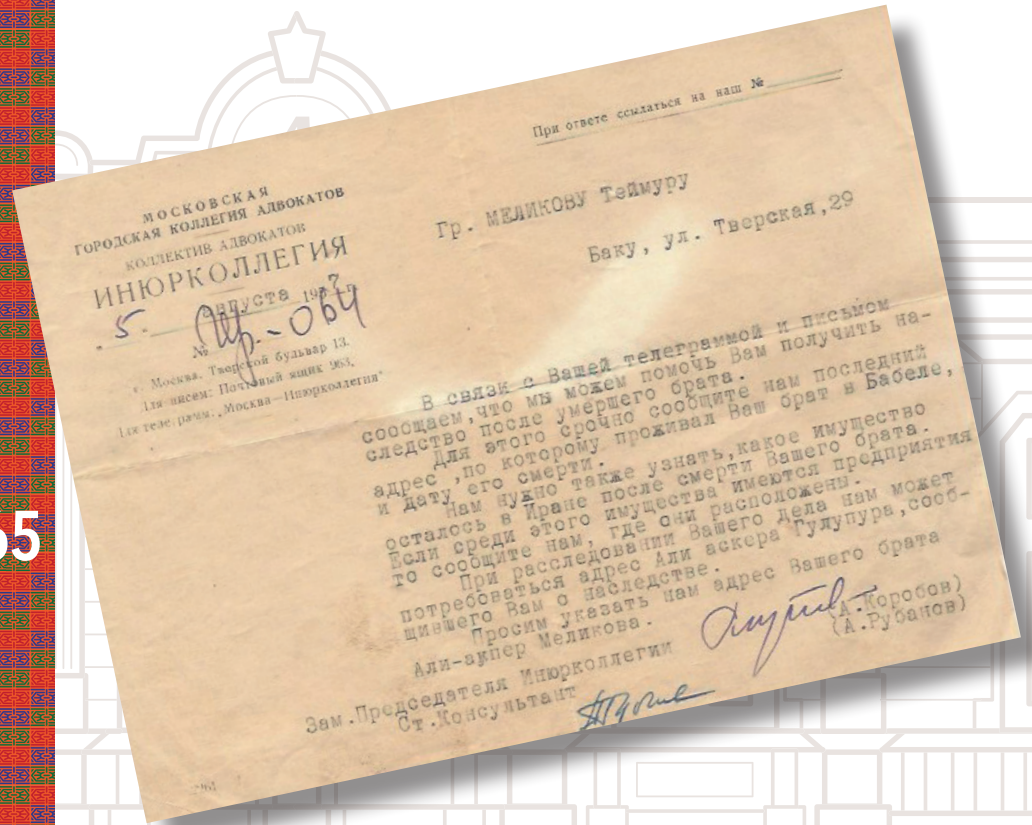
Birth of **Badisabah Bakhmanova** daughter of **Zohrab**, born in Baku, Azerbaijan on the 29th of July.

Studied at school 189 Baku. Entered the AzGos Medical University Faculty of Pharmacy 1954-1959. Married 1959 Husband Azer Melikov. Worked in the pharmaceutical industry.

1960

Birth of **Tahira Malikova** (born 1960 -). Daughter of **Azar Malikov**, Tahira following education in oil and gas engineering she received her PhD in economics. worked in oil and gas sector, banking, trade union confederation and is an entrepreneur. She is the mother of three children, **Anar Mahmudov** (born 1984), **Nargiz Mahmudova** (born 1989) and **Khuraman Mahmudova** (born 1988).

Tahira Malikova married **Eldar Mahmudov**. Eldar Mahmudov served as national security minister from 2004-2015, played an important role in the formation of the country's security efforts, and has been awarded by many foreign country leaders for his work. He still lives in Baku. Eldar Mahmudov is the son of the Academician **Ahmad Mahmudov**, who was one of the most famous and influential economists in Azerbaijan; and director of the Azeri Institute of Economics at the Academy of science.



1965

Birth of **Farhad Malikov** (born 1965). Son of **Azar Malikov**. Graduated from the Azerbaijan Oil and Chemistry Institute in Baku; highly regarded career as a banker. Married 3 children (being educated overseas).

1984

Birth of **Anar Mahmudov**, who is an international businessman and investor, and today is based in the United Kingdom. Anar is the great great grandson of **Aslan Ashurov** and great grandson of **Teymur Malikov** and direct heir of both families.

Anar completed his business education in Switzerland, successful entrepreneur currently involved in Petro Chemical industry; real estate development and investment. Anar Mahmudov currently lives in the United Kingdom; is married and has two children (**Aslan Mahmudov** and **Eldar Mahmudov**).

1988

Birth of **Khuraman Mahmudova**

Earned her Bachelor and Masters diplomas in Finance and Management in Switzerland. She worked in banking and then as an entrepreneur, successfully running several businesses.

She became a published author of children's books in Azerbaijan.

1989

Birth of **Nargiz Mahmudova**

Completed her Bachelor and Masters degree in Switzerland. Worked in the Oil and Gas sector, became an entrepreneur.

1990

Birth of **Teymur Malikov**

Studied in Azerbaijan. Entrepreneur.

1992

Birth of **Azar Malikov**

Earned his Bachelor's degree in Vienna, Austria. Working in Finance upon graduating.

2001

Birth of **Jamal Malikov**

Studying.



Based on "Ashurovs - Biography of a family dynasty", by Adalet Tahirzade.
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