

## HISTORICAL SCIENCES

### **DOCUMENTING FOREIGN COMMUNITIES: CENSUS MATERIALS ON SOCIAL STRATIFICATION IN SLOBODA UKRAINE IN THE LATE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

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Despite the wide thematic spectrum of scientific studies, the settlement history of Sloboda Ukraine in the 17<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> centuries requires a more thorough study of the source base, first of all, sources of a mass nature. The materials of general audits are one of the main accounting and statistical sources of genealogical and demographic information about the taxable population of the Russian Empire in the 18<sup>th</sup> – the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Records of people's stories or testimonies about their origin, family or property status in the specified period were called "skazky". Considering the need to put the maintenance of the regular army on taxable estates, Peter I in 1718 ordered to take "skazky" from every living man in most of the territories of the Russian Empire. As a result of the census, data on the population size turned out to be underestimated. That prompted the government to appoint in 1721 a thorough revision of the collected records. The name "revision" was preserved in subsequent censuses of taxable estates. People who were included in the census began to be called revisory souls, and their lists "revizki skazky".

In 1781–1783 an audit of the entire taxable population of the Kharkiv Governorate was conducted for the first time (the 4<sup>th</sup> revision). In addition to the main taxable estates (landlord peasants, military burghers, etc.), the revision included foreigners who lived freely in the cities or were the "subjects" of the landlords. Foreigners were also recorded during the 2<sup>nd</sup> revision (1743–47) in some counties, which is directly indicated by the 4<sup>th</sup> revision's "skazky". However, those documents were not found in the archival funds of the central and regional archives.

The materials of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> audits of foreigners of the Kharkiv Governorate were deposited in the fund of the Kharkiv Treasury Chamber of the State Archive of Kharkiv Region. The census covers Kharkiv, Valky, Okhtyrka, Bohodukhiv, Vovchansk, Zolochiv, Krasnokutsk, Izyum, and Chuhuiv districts of the Kharkiv Governorate. In rural areas foreigners lived

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mainly in landowners' estates, and in cities they were either in private service or becoming guildsmen and burghers.

The principles of designation in documents as "people of foreign origin", "people of the Wallachian, Polish, Greek, Armenian nation" of a wide range of dependent and free peasants, as well as military, burghers, guildsmen and merchants require a separate and thorough study. Unfortunately, not all biographies in the revisions are detailed and allow us to talk about the ethnicity of one or another person, and the indication of religion in such sources is an exception. A careful analysis of the "skazky" materials shows that "Wallachians" or "people of the "Wallachian nation" were referred to by the clerks as coming from the territory of modern Romania, Moldova, possibly Bukovyna and Transcarpathia. Thus, by "foreigners of the Wallachian nation" the revisions' compilers meant people from the territories that came under the control of the Russian Empire because of the Russian-Turkish war of 1768–1774.

The revision took place in several stages, the result of which was the creation of special types of clerical documentation. The authorized representative surveyed the population (often only of the village headman or ataman) and recorded their testimony about the personal composition of the population of this or that settlement. "Revizki skazky" were submitted to local authorities (city councils, town halls, and then city dumas), where generalized information was compiled. After the completion of the revision, general tables were drawn up, and from the 4<sup>th</sup> revision (1782–84), payment books began to be drawn up – all-imperial consolidated materials of the audit, intended for calculating tax fees.

For a long time, there was no clear "skazky" form: during the first two revisions, only male persons with an indication of age were taken into account. Starting with the third revision, a standardized form was introduced, where data on the female population was entered, and the number of information units that an audit had to report on each person increased. The tabular forms of "revizki skazky" for the studied 4<sup>th</sup> revision differ. Depending on the information potential and methods of entering data into the table, we have singled out 5 main handwritten forms of the census. It should be mentioned that each form, being at the same time an independent and complete type of clerical documentation, complements the others.

The least informative is the first form, which has the standard name "information". The consolidated information documentation is presented in the form of a general (draft) list of foreign nationals who lived in one or another province (or settlement) of the Kharkiv Governorate.

The second form contains data about the property and social status of the foreigners. For example, according to the revision of 1782 in Kharkiv, out of

five "Wallachian people" (heads of families), none had land or real estate, two served as officers' adjutants, and one expressed a desire to enroll in the burghers [1, p. 124].

The third form of "revizki skazky" contains information about foreigners who were in serfdom. The document consists of data about the landowner and the nature of the foreigner's employment (trade or military service) at the time of the census. Indicating the place of service, it becomes possible to use additional sources – service lists, alphabetical lists of lower military ranks, etc.

The fourth form shows information about people of various ranks of foreign origin. In addition to the specified information, a certificate of the person's place of departure and place of residence or service at the time of the census is attached to the report. In this form, religion is indicated, but there is no information about the female population.

The analysis of the fourth form of "skazky" allows us to conclude that the majority of "Wallachian people" came to the Kharkiv Governorate as a result of the wars waged by the Russian Empire in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century against Crimea, Turkey and several European states. For example, the Valky landowner Colonel M. M. Kulikovsky from Wallachia during the past Crimean and Prussian wars brought 4 families who expressed a desire to continue serving the same landlord, according to the revision [1, p. 401].

It is necessary to mention the fifth form of "revizki skazky" and the complex of accompanying clerical documentation on retired soldiers who at one time served in the Moldavian and Serbian hussar regiments and after retirement were settled in the districts of the Kharkiv Governorate. According to "skazky", retired soldiers of the "Wallachian nation" lived in Savyntsi, Balaklia, Lyman and Spivakivka. The consolidated list, containing brief biographical data, is supplemented by various documents of personal origin on individual Wallachians.

The materials of the 5<sup>th</sup> revision (1792–96) about "foreign subjects" are compiled according to traditional tabular forms, where we no longer see additional personal information characteristic of the 4<sup>th</sup> revision. The use of these materials is associated with a number of difficulties: in some "skazky" there is no division by nationality, not all people have surnames, etc. However, in most cases the materials of the fifth revision give an idea of the switching of "Wallachian people" from one social group to another, and record escapes, facts of death, registration for military service.

So, the analysis of the materials of general revisions of foreigners who lived in the territory of Sloboda Ukraine allows us to obtain unique information for genealogical or prosopographical research: anthroponomic data, dates of birth and death, information about social status and marital status, place of birth, completion of service, etc. Taking into account that only men were subject to

taxation, the compilers of "skazky" recorded more precisely the main milestones of their biography: the year of death, flight or disappearance, submission or voluntary entry into military service, change of religion. Considering the fact that "Wallachian people" were not registered according to the previous audit, there is no information about deaths in the inter-audit period in the document.

Since a significant part of the "Wallachian people" in subsequent revisions was already attributed to the status of merchants, burghers, guildsmen or peasants of one or another settlement, there is an opportunity to conduct research on identifying individual personalities and studying their further fate. A comprehensive study of "revizki skazky", primary census materials and accompanying clerical documentation collected in one file also allows us to make some additional observations regarding the personalities of the landowners who owned the Wallachian serfs, to establish a list of foreigners' names, to trace their further fate and the geography of resettlement. With the aim of supplementing and clarifying the information contained in the revisions, it becomes relevant to involve other source complexes of church-administrative population accounting. However, "revizki skazky" most often remain the most informative, significant and perhaps the only source for researching the genealogy of foreign representatives of taxable estates in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

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