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SOUTHERN UKRAINE NOBILITY'S  
ETHNIC STRUCTURE (LATE 18<sup>TH</sup> –  
EARLY 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES)

**Ключові слова:** дворянство, колонізація, загально-російський перепис, етнічні групи, аристократи, шляхетство.

**Циганенко Лілія. Етнічна структура дворянства Півдня України (кінець XVIII – XIX ст.)**

*Аналізується етнічний склад дворянства Катерино-славської, Херсонської та Бессарабської губернії; участь аристократів українського, російського, молдавського, грецького, німецького, італійського походження у процесах колонізації та освоєння південноукраїнських земель Російської імперії протягом кінця XVIII- XIX ст.*

Nobility stratum molding in southern Ukrainian lands was accompanied by the active nobility and incorporated processes. Unlike the most other regions of the Russian Empire, where the regional community of the nobility was formed by the local aristocracy, on the Black Sea lands the formation of the nobility stratum occurred mainly on the basis of newly arrived element by various flows, including the ethnic immigrants, which resulted in the specific process of the nobility formation in comparison with other areas of the empire.

The history of the nobility development in Southern Ukraine lands during late 18th - early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in the various aspects represents the considerable scientific interest. It is evidenced by the variety of the special researches, which belong to the historians, economists, lawyers, literary critics, philosophers, sociologists. The growth of the interest in the history of the Southern Ukrainian nobility takes place in 90's of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Some aspects of ethnic history of the regional nobility stratum were analyzed, the biographical researches were realized, new sources and etc were published in the works of V. Pirko, and N. Sureva<sup>1</sup>. At the same time the question of the social and ethnic sources of the nobility stratum replenishment, the degree of property stratification, the intensity and the specificity of the nobility processes requires the solution or the clarification. Revealing the regional peculiarities of the nobility in the south Ukrainian lands, the specification of the ethnic aspects determined by the process is the objective of this article.

One of the elements of the linked areas power strengthening was the colonization policy of the tsarist regime under which the government tried to increase the quantity of the population of Novorossiysk region primarily due to the foreign colonists – Bulgarian, Greek, German, Italian and

Swiss immigrants. Thus, the tsarist did not lay aside the settlement of the land and actually the Russian nobility. Russians were the certain part of the nobility mass in the south Ukrainian lands.

By mid of 70's of the 18th century their number was insignificant in the region. Only a few representatives of the imperial elite risked to settle on the dangerous frontier. This picture changed radically after the Russian -Turkish war 1768 – 1774 years. The military men, civil officials, businessmen and simply adventures migrated in the south land. For the most part they moved from the central provinces of the empire. The historian N.D. Polonska-Vasilenko considered that the Russians were 40% of the total number of noblemen who was settled in southern lands in early 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>2</sup>

Among the new owners of the south Ukrainian lands, we meet the representatives of the famous Russian nobility families – Y. Popov (V. Popov's grandson, the Secretary of the Count G. Potemkin), Prince M. Trubetskoy, the Count O. Musin-Pushkin and his wife, Lyubov Oleksandrivna (nee Kusheleva –Bezborod'ko), the Princes Volkonsky). Among the landowners on the Bessarabia lands – the representatives of the Russian nobility families were Abramovy, Burski, Demidovy, Serbinovy.

Most Russians, settled in the Novorossiysk region were, as usual, the officers and had diplomas of the nobility. The traditional appointment for the Russian empire to the civil posts of the military men became particularly widespread in the southern frontier region. According to the researcher D. G. Kayuk the majority of the nobility military men were the chief-officers in viceroyalty of Katerynoslav in 1783, who occupied the officer ranks from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> classes. The number of the representatives of this category amounted to 678 persons, representing almost 61% of the total

number of the military viceroyalty. The representatives of the army generals didn't disregard the Black Sea lands: 121 officers of the higher ranks (from V to I class) bore their service on the viceroyalty of Katerynoslav, which accounted for more than 10% of the public officer of this region<sup>3</sup>.

The first Russian officials came during the war 1806-1812 years in Bessarabia. Headed by the senator, the mystery adviser S. Kushnykov and his successor V. Krasno-Milashevych were engaged in the organization of the administrative management in the Danube principalities (Wallachia and Moldavia), and then in Bessarabia. The first as the chairperson of the Special office was O. Sorokunskiy - later the Bessarabian civilian governor. After him (1809-1812 years) this position occupied the exterior adviser O. Somov. One of the prominent figures in Chisinau that time was Russian - colonel Karnylovych.

In early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the number of the Russian noblemen, particularly among the government officials, was insignificant. Most of them were the military officials, who participated in the Russian-Turkish wars. Sometimes the moving to Bessarabia was forced and dictated by the official need: the transfer to the new place of the service or the possibility of obtaining the higher position. However, in those years the persons wishing to move to Bessarabia were few. P. Vihel pointed out that the service in Bessarabia was equated to the service in the Caucasus or Siberia, and those who had served in these parts for three years, got ahead of the next rank<sup>4</sup>.

Among the Russians whose activities connected with the land, it is necessary to allocate the Bessarabia military and civil of the governor the general-major Pavel Ivanovich Fedorov, whom due to his vigorous activity the contemporaries compared with the prince G. Potemkin. His activity of twenty (1834 - 1854) is an epoch in Bessarabia history. Let us recall some episodes, connected with the activity of P. Fedorov: in 1835 in Chisinau, the typography was founded; 1836 – the cathedral consecrated in Chisinau; in 1839 – the Bessarabia state property chamber was created, the road from Chisinau to Belts<sup>5</sup> was built. The shipping traffic between Ackerman and Ovidiopol was opened due to the persistence of P. Fedorov in 1840; the permanent forest guard was established in Bessarabia to prevent and struggle against the forest fires; in 1841 the postal service in the region was realized for the first time. P. Fedorov did much useful for the improvement of the Bessarabia cities. The plan of the redevelopment of Chisinau was directly designed by P. Fedorov. Paul Ivanovich

was able to approach the capital of Chisinau region Chisinau to the level of the European city through this project.

In late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries Bessarabia became the stay place and the permanent residence of the large number of the Russian nobility, who represented the servitor class of the civil and military officials. They received or buy the lands here, owned the real estate in the cities. The Russians or the natives of Russia were almost a quarter (110 of 468) of the noble families in the genealogical book of Bessarabia province nobility. Among the Russians, who owned the land property in Bessarabia, were also the representatives of the titled princely families – Volkonsky, Svyatopolk-Mirsky, the count – Petrovsky-Petrovo- Solovovo<sup>6</sup>.

According to the First all-Russian Census of 1897, 63071 noblemen lived in three Southern Ukrainian provinces; they called Russian as their native language. By the provinces, it was as follows: 36393 persons were in Khersons'ka province, 13447 persons were in Katerynoslavs'ka province, 13231 persons were in Bessarabia provinces.

Compared with other ethnic groups, the Russian was one of the largest among the mass of the nobility of the southern Ukrainian provinces and formed as a whole by the region over 67% of the general number of the nobility stratum. Evaluating the obtained results it is necessary to consider the following. Firstly, the tsarist government, trying to keep its influence in the newly connected lands, pursued the policy of the open assimilation and the Russification of the local population. The local aristocracy faced the age-old problem of the choice: either accept the Russian government, the imperial administrative system, the Russian language and culture gaining access to the privileged stratum of the empire - the Russian nobility, with the subsequent obtaining the power, ranks, awards, property, etc., or to keep the ethnic features carefully. However, at the same time forget about any support from the government, the career, the opportunity of the enrichment. Therefore, it is clear that the predominant majority of the local nobility adopted the conditions of the play, proposed by the government, gradually turning into the consolidated privileged status. Secondly, pursuing the policy of new lands colonization, at first the government counted on the reliable nobility, giving precisely the representatives of the Russian aristocratic stratum of the land in the Black Sea steppes. Thirdly, do not forget the existing exaggeration and sometimes even the falsifications, inherent in the materials of the First

all-Russian census. However told all above, in no way detract the contribution and the role of the Russian noblemen in the socio-economic, administrative-political, cultural and educational development of the Black Sea lands.

Besides the Russians, the most numerous ethnic communities of the nobility in the provinces were in Khersons'ka and Katerynoslavs'ka – the Polish and Ukrainian nobility; in Bessarabia – Moldovan, Polish and Ukrainian.

Some part of the nobility mass of the southern land was deeply Ukrainian rooted. N. Polonska-Vasilenko tried to count the number of the Ukrainian among the landowners of the southern Ukrainian lands. By her estimate the Ukrainians made 10,5% by fifteen districts of the vicegerency of Katerynoslav in 1787. We should remember that this period of the active integration of the Ukrainian officers to the ranks of the Russian nobility, and therefore the part of the Ukrainian has already had the time to obtain the correspondent status or rank. That is why the number of the nobility of the Ukrainian origin was undoubtedly higher. Well known in Ukraine, the representatives of the senior officers' families had already considered the representatives of the Russian nobility, for example, the general-lieutenant Miloradovich, the general-major Bezborod'ko, the prime-major Kochubey, the ensign Kapnist, the ensign Malama, the exterior advisor Poletik, the exterior advisor Levenets and many others.

The considerable part among the new southern Ukrainian nobility made the previous Cossack sergeant major, which was able not to preserve property and certain privileges, but also obtain the new privileges from the new Russian government, as a rule, in the form of land. The easiest way for the nobility, Cossack was service and availability of the appropriate military ranks. In 1787 S. Biluy and A. Holovaty submitted for approval of the ranks two lists of the Cossack sergeant major: one for 91 persons, the second - for 74 people, and at the end of 1788 officers were 143 members of the previous the Zaporizhian sergeant major<sup>7</sup>.

There were the persons in the list of the landowners of Katerynoslavs'ka and Khersons'ka provinces early 19<sup>th</sup> cent., whom we can identify as the previous Zaporozhe sergeant major: Captain Visochin (regimental sergeant major), ensign Perehrystov (cornet), Semen and Jacob Rud (sons of the regimental Cossack captain), Captain Ostroukhov (Cossack colonel), the captain Zolotarev (military comrade), Guarantor Gehenniy (regimental Captain), Major Haradzha (the regimental sergeant major Ivan Haradzha, from 1779 Captain, from 1791 – Colonel of the Black

sea Cossack army with the rank army second-major).

Joining Bessarabia to the Russian empire opened before the representatives of the southern Ukrainian nobility the new opportunities for the development of the region, but the noblemen with Ukrainian roots do not hurry to move on the new lands. In general, the first significant stratum of the Ukrainian population that settled in the lower Dniester and Danube plains emerged here in early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Creating Ust-Danube Cossack army in 1807, among other tasks, the royal administration provided with it helps establishing of the effective control of the Ukrainian population in the region. In the detachment Ust-Danube Cossack army that was situated on the Danube lands, in the early of the XIX cent. According to the "List of the Scribe of the Ust - Danube Budzhatskiy force about the available Cossacks in the service" 97.6% came from the peasant, Cossack and soldiers' families, and only 2.4% - came from the nobility, clergy, sergeant and officer stratum<sup>8</sup>.

According to the researcher O. Bachyns'ka from Odessa, who investigated in detail the processes of settling by the Ukrainian population of the Danube lands, the number of the Ukrainian noblemen on the lands of Danube was negligible. Thus, in Ackerman and Izmail districts in late 19<sup>th</sup> century the Ukrainian noblemen with the honorable citizens made for only 1% of the total Ukrainian population of these administrative units<sup>9</sup>. The amount of Cossacks of the Ust-Danube army of the Ukrainian noblemen and those who could pretend for that status was not enough. The exception was the first Cossack chieftain of this army the landowner of Elisavetgrad Ivan Pidlesetskiy. In addition, in the early of the 19<sup>th</sup> there were 15 military officers, 13 favor comrades in the army. Among names the researcher cites are T. Haydabura, D. Poloviy, I. Huba. The noblemen of the following Ukrainian families – Terletsky, Vishnevsky, Kolenky, Smolensky, Lishyny, Mitrofanovy, Navrotsky, Dyachenky and others had a great respect in Bessarabia.

According to the all-Russian Census of 1897, the number of the nobility mass, who considered the Ukrainian language as native, amounted to 1216 persons, representing 5.54% of the total number of the community of the Bessarabia nobility. This indication is the lowest among the southern Ukrainian provinces. Most (140 people) of the Ukrainian noblemen lived in the capital – Chisinau<sup>10</sup>.

Additional information is given in "Alphabetical list of the nobility families in Bessarabia province which was given in the noble

genealogical book on January 1, 1901". According to this list, the representatives of the nobility families were made in the provincial noble book that once came from Podil's'ka, Poltavs'ka, Khersons'ka, Volyns'ka, Chernihivs'ka, Kharkivs'ka, Kyivs'ka and Katerynoslavs'ka provinces. Obviously that not all noblemen-immigrants from the Ukrainian provinces were the ethnic Ukrainians, among them there are also polish, Russian and Moldavian surnames. However, the primary majority still represented the Ukrainian community of the nobility.

According to O. Yaroshevich, in late 19th century the smallest number of the Ukrainians lived in Novorossiia - only 47% population of the land" <sup>11</sup>. For the provinces of the Novorossiysk region, here, in the opinion of the author, the Ukrainian colonization somewhat was late, clashing with the active Great Russian migration, and the significant colonization by the foreign migrants. The most "Ukrainian" were Katerynoslavs'ka and Khersons'ka provinces (68% and 53% respectively), and the smallest number of the Ukrainians lived in Touraine and Bessarabia provinces (42% and 19%). If to compare the number of the noblemen with the total number of the Ukrainian population, we will come to the conclusion, the more numerous in comparison with other were the community of the nobility of Khersons'ka province – the total number of the noblemen-Ukrainians made 5791 persons, equated to 11,5 % of the total number of the stratum. The noblemen-Ukrainians of Katerynoslavs'ka province were less numerous – 3454 persons, although by the correlation to the total number of the noblemen of the province they accounted for almost 17 % <sup>12</sup>.

Settling the southern Ukrainian lands, the Ukrainian nobility was one of the leading groups of the noble state, played the considerable role in the cultural processes of the land, spreading education, business affair, in the works of the rural and urban institutions, settling and further development of this region.

Another group of the nobility community of the southern lands was Poles who appear on the territory of Novorossiysk land from the beginning of its official colonization. A. Skalkovskiy cites the examples of the representtatives adoption of the polish nobility in the service of the Moldavian hussar regiment: the commander of the Serbian hussar regiment Zhandr could help out 40 families of the polish noblemen and settle them in Bahmutskiy district about 1777 <sup>13</sup>. From this time, the representatives of the polish noble families – Pototsky, Poniatowsky, Il'insky – get the large areas of the land in the region. The

historian affirms that the emergence of the poles in the southern land was associated not only with the military service, but also with the trade. The polish noblemen settled in Kherson and Odessa together with the earl P. Pototsky, which creates the trade office.

Obviously the Poles didn't try to get the nobleman status of the Russian Empire. They were quite enough of their nobility. Generally, at the beginning of the southern land settling the poles and especially the polish noblemen at the initial stage were few here. But over time the number of the representatives of the polish nobility greatly increased, gradually becoming one of the strong nobility ethnic mass of the Black Sea provinces.

The Tsarist government behaved with the Polish nobility according to the traditional model: first, it did not break the administrative, social and cultural status quo, and then, gradually, carried out the gradual integration. The czarism was looking for cooperation with the loyal representatives of the ruling classes, who later integrated into the aristocracy of the empire. Like most other non-Russian nobility circles (the Baltic Germans, the Finns, the Georgians), the Polish nobility guarded their ethnic identity. They lived their isolated life, and didn't mix up with the local population. The difference in language and religion made the confluence with the local population almost impossible.

It should be noted that the relations between the polish elite and the royal power were quite complex and contradictory. Due to the political opposition at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, czarist government repeatedly used to seize the estates of the polish noblemen and to transfer them to the state department. In October 1795 the czarism bought the waterside estate (650 thousand des. of the land) from prince Lyubomirskiy and transferred the acquired land with the peasants to the noblemen - Dolgorukov, Tutolmin, Puschin, I. P. Saltykov (the general prosecutor who issued the agreement with Lubomirskiy), Aprelov, S. P. Yahushynskiy. Several hundred noblemen of Podil's'ka, Volyns'ka, Kievs'ka and Khersons'ka provinces moved to Bessarabia in the first two decades after 1812. Some of them settled in towns and established their communities there; some settled in the Southern Bessarabia, others went to the property owners' estates as the owners or managers by the affairs.

We find the additional list of the inhabitants of Ackerman of 1826 among the documents of the Ackerman city council, which called 5 families belonging to noble status. This is A. Tomachynskiy, Y. Pawlowskiy, A. Dromitko, and

M. Shaiko. The list is also contained Ahifton, Paul, Stephen and Timothy Dolhonovski<sup>14</sup>. For example, in 1827 the Polish nobleman lived in Izmail district in v. Chumachuk (6 persons), in the colony Dolekyu (3 persons), colony Taraclia (3 persons), v. Hasan-Batir (19 persons), v. Gora-Bukuluy (16 persons). The villages Cybulski, Bukoyemka, Yanivka, Shyryaevy appear thanks to the immigrants in Tiraspol's'ka (Odes'ka) district.

The first information indicating the number of Polish population in the South of the country is in the "Statistical Review of Bessarabia province of 1822 – 1828 for 1827. The total Polish population in Bessarabia was 3.224 persons<sup>15</sup>. It is practically impossible to identify what percent of the total number represented the nobility classes. The historian A. Skalkovskiy also tried to set the number of the Polish noblemen, who lived on the territory of Bessarabia. After reviewing the church lists, he proved that their number in early 19<sup>th</sup> century reached about 2.000 persons.

More detailed information about the number of Polish nobility is presented in the materials of all-Russian Census. The analysis of the facts shows that the number of the Polish noblemen in Southern Ukrainian lands was the same as Ukrainian noblemen and accounted for 10908 persons or 11.75% of the total number of the noblemen in Bessarabia, Katerynoslavs'ka and Khersons'ka provinces. The distribution by provinces has certain features. If we compare Bessarabs'ka and Katerynoslavs'ka provinces, the number of the noblemen-Poles was almost identical according to their origin, but the correlation of the nobility total number in the province is slightly different - in Bessarabia it is almost 10%, and in Katerynoslavs'ka provinces - more than 12.5%. The situation in Khersons'ka region was significantly different from previous regions: it gave only 6.64% mass of the nobility of the land under much more number of the Polish element among the nobility of the province - more than 6 thousand persons.

Most of the Polish nobility lived in the cities of Bessarabia – 1.213 persons or 56% of the total number of the Polish nobility of the land. The most numerous Polish community was in Chisinau, Bendery and Khotyn, the smallest - in Kilia and Cahul (less than 1%). 44% of the Polish noblemen, or 953 persons inhabited in the rural area. Khotyns'kiy, Sorokskiy and Beltskiy counties were the most appealing for the Polish nobility. We should name the families of this time among the famous Polish landowners in Bessarabia: Jankowski, Dolivo-Dobrovolsky,

Lehanzevych, Derozhynsky, Sokolovsky, Tushynsky, Kulikovsky and others<sup>16</sup>.

Among the Polish nobility mass the military service enjoyed the special respect. Most of the Polish noblemen of Southern Ukrainian provinces connected their lives with the service in the army; particularly with the established Danube Cossack army on the Danube lands in 1828. It is known that there were noblemen in the army: M. Tomachynskiy, Y. Ohotskiy, D. Romanivskiy, P. Panfilovych, F. Kyslyavskiy, and P. Lozinsky. In 1836, the Cossack chieftain of the Danube army was Colonel Stanislav Timofiyovich Wasilewsky, who came from the Polish family of the nobility.

The analysis of the alphabetical lists of the nobility families in Bessarabia province on January 1, 1911 allows us to define the distribution of the representatives of the Polish noble status by categories or classes, which are following: the representatives of the Polish noble families of Bessarabia province made only four of the six parts of the genealogical book. Most of the Polish nobility was included in the first part of the genealogical book - 25 persons or 52%. Eighteen representatives of the Polish noble status were included in the sixth most prestigious part of the book, which constituted 37, 5% of the total number of the noblemen-Poles, made into the genealogical book of Bessarabia province. The small part was represented by the Polish military (8, 3%) and civil (2%) nobility. The majority of the Polish noble families living in Bessarabia had a long history and the considerable "experience" belonging to the privileged stratum. 51.1% of all Poles registered in the genealogical book were beginning their families from the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and some of them – even from the last third of XVI (Joseph Lysakovskiy). Only 8, 3% of the Polish noblemen belonged to the so-called "new nobility" - those who received their status only in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>17</sup>

One of the famous Polish noble families of Novorossiysk region was the Dolivo-Dobrovolskys who belonged to the ancient Polish noble family. Gregory Onufriyovych Dolivo-Dobrovolsky was introduced the first in the genealogical book of Bessarabia province, who served in the guards of the Moscovian regiment and since 1846 he settled in the v. Terzyeny of Orhyeyevskiy district. The Dolivo-Dobrovolskys were the famous Bessarabia landowners, they owned the family lands: the estates Butseny (1.500 des.) of Chisinau district; Bravicheny (404 des.), Dyshkovo and Poluputsyntey (1.800 des.) of Orhyeyevskiy district; Byeshtamak (250 des.) of Bendery district.

One of the most famous representatives of the family Dolivo-Dobrovolsky was Roman Grigorovich – the last marshal of the Bessarabia nobility, born July 6, 1868, graduated from the faculty of law of the Novorossiysk University, in 1893. Actively engaged in public works - was elected on the elective rural and noble posts. From 1894 till 1914, he served as the trustee for the rural schools, the honorable magistrate; he was the member of the trustee of the council of the Chisinau girls' school, the trustee of the Kokorozensky agricultural school. In 1905 he was elected the magistrate in three district at once - Khotyn, Ackerman and Bendery. From 1899 - participated in the work of the noble class organizations repeatedly elected the marshal of nobility of various districts in Bessarabia province, and on February 21, 1914 - on June 3, 1923 served as the leader of the Bessarabia nobility<sup>18</sup>.

The Polish nobility of Southern Bessarabia provinces occupied the prominent place in the public and socio-economic life of the region, objectively promoting the modernization of the society, the formation of new interests related to the industrial development and new achievements of the progress.

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**Цыганенко Лилия. ЭТНИЧЕСКАЯ СТРУКТУРА ДВОРЯНСТВА ЮГА УКРАИНЫ (КОНЕЦ XVIII – XIX ВВ.)**

*Анализируется этнический состав дворянства Екатеринославской, Херсонской и Бессарабской губерний; участие аристократов украинского, русского, молдавского, греческого, итальянского, немецкого происхождения в процессах колонизации и освоения южноукраинских земель Российской империи в конце XVIII- XIX вв.*

**Ключевые слова:** дворянство, колонизация, общероссийская перепись населения, этнические группы, аристократы, шляхта.

**Tsyganenko Liliya. ETHNIQUE COMPOSITION GENTILHOMMERIE AU SUD DE L'UKRAINE (LA FIN 18 - 19 ART.)**

*Dans article se dépouille ethnique composition gentilhommerie Yekaterinoslavskoy, Khersonskey et Bessarabskoy domaines participation aristocrates ukrainienne, russe, moldavienne, grec, polonais, italien genèse dans processus colonisation sud sols ukrainienne Russie empire dans deuxième demie 18 - 19 siècles.*

**Termes clés:** gentilhommerie, colonisation, recensement population, ethniques groupes, aristocrates.