

**СЕЛЯНСЬКЕ ЗАВОРУШЕННЯ В РОШІ 1871 Р.:
РЕКОНСТРУКЦІЯ МАЛОВІДОМОГО ПРОТЕСТУ
ЗА АРХІВНИМИ ДЖЕРЕЛАМИ**

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**THE PEASANT UPRISING IN ROSHA IN 1871:
A RECONSTRUCTION OF A LITTLE-KNOWN PROTEST
FROM ARCHIVAL SOURCES**

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Мойсей Антоній, Геруш Ігор, Аністратенко Антоніна. Селянське заворушення в Роші 1871 р.: реконструкція маловіданого протесту за архівними джерелами. У статті розкрито передумови, перебіг та наслідки селянського виступу, що стався у передмісті Чернівців Роша в червні 1871 року як реакція на запровадження нової орендної плати за випас худоби. Дослідження здійснено в межах реалізації проєкту «**RESTORY**» (**HORIZON-CL2-2023-HERITAGE-01-№ 101132781**), спрямованого на відновлення культурної пам'яті та локальної ідентичності шляхом аналізу текстових і усних джерел.

Актуальність дослідження зумовлена потребою переосмислення локальних проявів громадянського спротиву в соціальному просторі Буковини поза межами романтизованого уявлення про «золотий вік» австрійської адміністрації. **Наукова новизна** полягає у введенні до наукового обігу комплексу раніше неопублікованих архівних документів, що висвітлюють малодосліджений епізод локального опору фіскальній політиці. **Висновки.** У центрі конфлікту – намагання міської влади Чернівців встановити орендну плату за користування пасовищами, яка суперечила багатовіковим звичаям вільного випасу, що вважалися мешканцями Роші їхнім природним правом. Запровадження цієї плати в умовах бідності, високих податкових зобов'язань і наслідків голоду 1865 року сприймалося як несправедливе та репресивне. Відмова мешканців сплачувати збір, масова непокор та протистояння з поліцейськими й військовими підрозділами засвідчили високий рівень соціального напруження в громаді. Матеріал представляє інтерес для дослідників соціальної історії Австро-Угорщини, локальних громадських рухів, а також для вивчення механізмів фіскального тиску в імперських периферіях.

Ключові слова: Австро-Угорщина, Буковина, передмістя Чернівців, Роша, громадянська непокор, соціальна історія, селянське заворушення, фіскальна політика.

Introduction. The subject matter of this research was formed during the study of the history of the village, suburb, and later, the Rosha microdistrict of Chernivtsi, as part of the «**RESTORY**» project – a European Commission Grant Programme «**Horizon Europe**» (**HORIZON-CL2-2023-HERITAGE-01-№ 101132781**). The project is aimed at reconstructing the cultural memory and social identity of local communities through the analysis of textual and oral sources. In this context, Rosha emerges as an example of a multi-ethnic suburban environment with an active religious life and a complex socio-economic situation under increasing tax pressure. Research into previously unpublished archival materials has revealed a little-known but highly illustrative event: in early summer 1871, an act of civil disobedience took place in Rosha, which was recorded in official rhetoric as an «incident involving violence». The organized resistance of the suburban residents against the introduction of a new rental fee for grazing livestock culminated in the intervention of military units and subsequent repression.

The article **aims to** comprehensively illuminate the causes, course, and consequences of the aforementioned resistance against the backdrop of the socio-economic dynamics of the Austrian period.

The relevance of the study lies in the need to re-evaluate the local history of Bukovina beyond the traditional notion of the «golden age» of Austrian rule.

The inclusion of a broad range of unpublished archival sources, particularly from the State Archives of Chernivtsi Oblast, ensures **the novelty of the research** and allows for the reconstruction of the event within its social, legal, and historical contexts.

Source Base. A significant body of archival documents stored in the funds of the State Archives of Chernivtsi Oblast (SACO) was processed during the research. These sources formed the basis for reconstructing the causes, course, and consequences of the act of civil disobedience by the residents of the Chernivtsi suburb of Rosha against the introduction of a new rental fee for the use of pastures.

Historiography. The study is based on the analysis of a number of representative works dedicated to the study of socio-economic processes in the suburbs of Chernivtsi during the period of Austrian rule. The work of Raimund Kaindl, *History of Chernivtsi*¹, is of fundamental importance, as it provides a characterization of the tax policy of the imperial administration regarding urban

¹ Kaindl R. F. Geschichte von Czernowitz von den ältesten Zeiten bis zur Gegenwart = The history of the Chernivtsi has the best clocks in the future, per. z nim. V.YU. Ivanyuka, Chernivtsi: Zelena Bukovyna, 2005 [in Ukrainian].

villages, particularly the suburb of Rosha. Objective data on key aspects of the administrative structure and fiscal regulation of Bukovina during the Austrian period are summarized in the study by I. Zhaloba and M. Nykyforiak, *Administration and Economy of Bukovina (Austrian Period)*². Among other important works, it is worth noting the monograph by V. Botushansky and H. Chaika, *Emigration from Bukovina (1860s – early 20th century)*³, which traces the socio-economic living conditions of the peasantry, including the causes of labour migration. In the Romanian historiographical tradition, Ion Nistor's work, *History of Bukovina*⁴, holds a significant place, as it sheds light on the situation of the Romanian peasantry in the socio-economic and political context of the Austrian era.

Main Body. With the introduction of the new administration in 1774, peasants continued to pay taxes according to the norms inherited from the Moldavian period for almost another decade – until 1783. In the early 1780s, most in-kind duties were replaced by a monetary rent. A significant milestone was the issuance of a decree by Emperor Joseph II on February 8, 1786 (known as

status quo), which exempted the population of Bukovina from all previously existing Voivodeship taxes for 30 years⁵.

Land relations remained the most difficult area of regulation for the Austrian administration. Their standardization in accordance with imperial legislation required the registration and valuation of land ownership. The relevant work was carried out by local commissions consisting of a village elder and six elected «men of trust». The surveys lasted from 1786 to 1787, and the completion of the full cadastre is dated to 1788⁶.

From R. F. Kaindl's work, we learn that on August 31, 1782, Colonel Metzger, as part of defining the city's boundaries and rights, conducted a survey of local residents, including Nikolay Hrek (the *sholtuz*) and seven other burghers. The representatives of Rosha and Horecha were local bailiffs and sworn men. The protocol of September 3, 1782, signed by bailiff Vasyl Bulbuk, contains an important admission: the village of Rosha is not a separate *moshia* (hereditary estate) but is part of the city's territory. It had previously belonged to the princely fund and subsequently became imperial. The residents of Rosha, acknowledging their belonging to the city's jurisdiction, answered the question of «for whom they perform duties» by stating: «We are considered residents of the city. As residents of the city, we pay a tithe to the Skyt monastery in Galicia. We perform corvée labour for

the prince, not for any landlord». This testimony suggests that the residents of Rosha, although formally belonging to the city, did not perform direct duties to it. They were sometimes called «cameral»⁷. Thus, by the end of the 18th century, the dependence of the urban villages on Chernivtsi was recognized – similar to the feudal dependence of peasants on a landlord. This is confirmed by the archival research of Raimund Kaindl: according to the City Statute of 1786, «the three villages located on city lands – Rosha, Horecha, and Klokuchka – just like other subjects in Bukovina, must pay their duties to the city treasury». At the same time, «the tithe that the Skyt monastery in Galicia had been collecting from the city lands until now was subsequently transferred to the Religious Fund»⁸. That is why the Rosha community, in difficult circumstances, repeatedly appealed to the said fund for assistance, having legal grounds to do so.

It is also known that the residents of urban villages, like other subjects, not only paid taxes but also performed numerous in-kind duties: preparing and delivering firewood, guard duty, cleaning city streets, providing horses for fire-fighting needs⁹ free of charge, etc.. In addition, the peasants of the suburbs of Rosha, Klokuchka, and Kalichanka were obliged to perform forced labour on the construction of military facilities¹⁰.

Already in 1783-1784, the residents of Rosha and Horecha were paying so-called «landlord taxes,» i.e., monetary contributions that replaced in-kind duties. To these was added a «forest tax,» which was also included in these taxes. After paying the corresponding sum-1 florin for households with horses («mounted») and 30 kreutzers for peasants without horses – the residents of the suburbs received the right to collect brushwood in the city forest¹¹.

However, the practice of taxation was often accompanied by abuse. In 1821, a complaint was received by the city administration from the Rosha community regarding the unlawful and excessive collection of forest duties and the household tax (*Hausgulden*)¹². In 1823-1825, a new conflict arose – this time concerning the taxation of pastures. The peasants of Rosha protested against being deprived of their rights to registered (*tabular*) private meadows, especially in cases where some owners already lived directly in Chernivtsi¹³.

Prerequisites. After the abolition of corvée labour in 1848, the city authorities lost their main source of income from the suburbs. From then on, the city received mainly land rent for plots transferred for hereditary (*emphyteutic*) use to private individuals. Part of the income came from

² Zhaloba I., Nykyforyak M. Uryaduvannya ta ekonomika Bukovyny (avstriys'kyy period) [Governance and Economy of Bukovina (Austrian Period)], Chernivtsi: Zelena Bukovyna, 2008 [in German, in Ukrainian].

³ Botushans'kyi V.M., Chayka H. V. Emigratsiya z Bukovyny (60-ti rr. KHIKH – pochatok KHKH st.) [Emigration from Bukovina (1960s – early 20th century)], Chernivtsi: «Tekhnodruk», 2009 [in Ukrainian].

⁴ Nistor Ion. Istoria Bucovinei, București: Humanitas, 1991, P. 303-304 [in Romanian].

⁵ Zhaloba I., Nykyforyak M. Uryaduvannya ta ekonomika ..., op. cit., P. 26.

⁶ Ibidem, P. 27.

⁷ Kaindl R. F. Geschichte von Czernowitz ..., op. cit., p. 148, 174-175.

⁸ Ibidem, c. 176.

⁹ Ibidem, c. 177.

¹⁰ Derzhavnyy arkhiv Chernivets'koyi oblasti (DACHO) [State Archives of Chernivtsi Region (DACHO)], F. 1, Op. 2, Ref. No. 70.

¹¹ Kaindl R. F. Geschichte von Czernowitz ..., op. cit., P. 218.

¹² DACHO, F. 1, Op. 1, Ref. No. 3878.

¹³ DACHO, F. 1, Op. 1, Ref. 5253.

the so-called «*pripas*»—fees for stray livestock. Expenses for quartering soldiers from the 1830s to 1878 were covered by quasi-barracks contributions paid by burghers to avoid having soldiers quartered in their homes¹⁴. In 1818, an additional military tax was also introduced¹⁵. A significant source of budget revenue remained indirect taxes – excise duties on the consumption of sugar, meat, alcohol, yeast, wine, beer, tobacco, kerosene, salt, etc. On average, such taxes amounted to 7.2 million crowns per year, more than half of which was paid by the peasants¹⁶.

The socio-economic situation of the Rosha peasants should be considered in the context of the broader policy of the Habsburg Empire towards the provinces. Bukovina served as a market for Austrian industry, so the government had no strategic interest in the industrialization of the region. On the contrary, the main source of income from the province remained agriculture and forestry. The main export items to the Vienna market were livestock and timber. In the absence of industrial development, the local rural population, especially the Romanian population, was forced to seek seasonal work in Moldova. Already in the autumn, local landlords concluded agreements with Bukovinian intermediary firms, which gave peasants advances against future wages.

In the pages of the Romanian regional newspaper *Zorile Bucovinei*, V. Kovalchuk provided the following data: in 1831, 470 families lived in Rosha, of which only 4 were considered «*frintashi*» (wealthy), 21 were «middle-class», and the rest were land-poor and poor (*kodash*). The community was obliged to perform 612 workdays, 62 days with carts, and also pay a collective tax of 107 fl. and 57 kr¹⁷. In the 1890s, the elder (*judge*) of Rosha, M. Kantemir, in a letter to the regional administration regarding the community's coverage of church construction costs, testified: «It is well known – the community is poor and has no sources that could ease the burden of covering even a part of the necessary expenses. The vast majority of parishioners struggle for basic survival and can often barely pay the most necessary taxes to the state and the community – or cannot do so at all, or only with great difficulty. And what moving scenes have already taken place during the forced collection of overdue taxes...»¹⁸.

Archival documents repeatedly mention residents of Rosha who earned a living through day labour¹⁹. Due to constant labour migration, it was difficult to organize the

community for work in the summer – the heads of families were away. The exact number of day labourers in Rosha is difficult to determine, but according to the 1869 census, there were 20,329 agricultural workers and 9,085 day labourers in Chernivtsi (including Rosha)²⁰. Poverty and destitution led to social degradation: drunkenness became a widespread phenomenon among men. The priest Petro Popescul, who served in Rosha from 1893 to 1902, testified: «Drunkenness was very widespread. Children were not forced to attend school. Romanian craftsmen, without education, waited to be hired by Germans». The director of the local school, Vasyl Hyrbu (Skrypniuk), added to the picture: «Social life took place under extremely unfavourable circumstances. Only a small part of the population had faith in their own strength. Most elderly people showed indifference and a tendency towards alcoholism, while young people, deprived of proper examples and incentives, organized dances in taverns, which often ended in fights. Animosity prevailed among the youth of the Rosha-Tsentr, Tsetsyna, Poyana-Rosha, and Stynka neighbourhoods, which often led to clashes and even murders»²¹. That is why in the statutes of public associations that emerged in Rosha in the second half of the 19th century, the fight against alcoholism was set as a primary task for the community²².

A separate component of the socio-economic pressure on the residents of Rosha was the right of propination – the monopoly right to sell alcoholic beverages, which was actively used by the regional authorities. This right was transferred on a lease basis, and significant sums were paid for it. The monopoly right made it possible to set high prices for alcohol for the population. Documents have been preserved regarding the collection of fees for propination from the owner of a drinking house in Rosha, Kirilovich Mariya (1807-1821)²³. In an attempt to cover tax obligations, peasants were forced to turn to bank loans. The formal interest rate was 15%, but in reality, it reached up to 70%²⁴. At the same time, tax pressure was constantly increasing. The long-standing correspondence with the Chernivtsi city administration regarding the illegal collection of forest fees (1810-1821) yielded no results. Data on payments from 1810 to 1817 record an increase from 7 to 28 florins²⁵. Another example is the taxes on pastures in 1825-1826, which increased sharply²⁶.

The abolition of corvée labour in 1848 had symbolic significance: the residents of Rosha were not subjects of

¹⁴ Kaindl R. F. *Geschichte von Czernowitz ...*, op. cit., p. 219-224.

¹⁵ Zhaloba I., Nykyforyak M. *Uryaduvannya ta ekonomika ...*, op. cit, p. 132.

¹⁶ Botushansky V.M., Chaika G. V. *Emihratsiya z Bukovyny ...*, op. cit, p. 24.

¹⁷ Koval'chuk V. *Chya may veke shkoale romynyaske la Cherneuts'* [About the Roman school in Cernauti], *Zorile Bucovinei*, 23 yuliye 1991 [in Romanian].

¹⁸ DACHO, F. 3, Op. 2, Ref. 13430, Ark 57.

¹⁹ DACHO, F. 39, Op. 4, Ref. 42, Ark. 140; DACHO, F. 3, Op. 2, Ref. No. 16212.

²⁰ Iacobescu M. *Din istoria Bucovinei. Vol. I (1774-1862)* [From the history of Bukovina. Vol. I (1774-1862)], București: Editura Academiei Române, 1993, p. 213 [in Romanian].

²¹ «Tețina». *Societatea cultural-economică a românilor din Roșă-Cernăuți (10 mai 1896-10 mai 1936). 40 de ani de activitate cultural-economică* [«Tețina». The Cultural-Economic Society of the Romanians of Roșă-Cherniți (May 10, 1896 – May 10, 1936). 40 years of cultural-economic activity], Cernăuți: Tipografia Glasul Bucovinei, 1936, P. 4-5 [in Romanian].

²² DACHO, F. 3, Op. 2, Ref. 12886.

²³ DACHO, F. 1, Op. 1, Spr. 1894.

²⁴ Nistor I. *Istoria Bucovinei ...*, op. cit., p. 303-304.

²⁵ DACHO, F. 1, Op. 1, Ref. 3878.

²⁶ DACHO, F. 1, Op. 1, Ref. 5253.

any landlord, and all taxes continued to be paid to the city treasury. In addition, they were burdened with additional expenses – the so-called *competitive participation*. This meant that in the implementation of community projects (construction of churches, schools, roads), the state covered one-third of the costs, while the rest was borne by the community (with money, transport, or forced labour). For example, the school of 1839 was built at the expense of the community – Orthodox and colonists of other denominations²⁷. But a financial conflict subsequently arose, recorded in sources as the «school question» (1858-1868): the Moldavian and German communities of Rosha could not agree on the payment for the expansion of the trivial school building. In addition to the already mentioned issues, archival documents reveal another important aspect of the school's functioning in Rosha – the system of established community duties, both monetary and in-kind, which supplemented the guaranteed monthly salary of the teacher, Johann Levytsky. Specifically, the Moldavian community paid 23 fl. 24 kr., the German community paid 15 fl. 47 kr., and the Monastyriska community paid 7 fl. 75 kr.; the total amount was 46 fl. 45 kr.. These contributions, proportionally distributed according to the number of households, were intended to pay the technical staff responsible for preparing firewood, heating, and cleaning. For almost a decade, Levytsky complained to the Chernivtsi magistracy about the untimely and incomplete fulfillment of these obligations. In 1867, he wrote: «I am constantly forced to cover these expenses from my modest salary». The Moldavian community was the biggest debtor, although debts also arose among others. The elders Heorhiy Ostafi (Moldavian community) and Yakob Dzhurek (German community) did not initiate any measures for forced collection throughout 1860-1867. Only in 1868 did Ostafi, acknowledging a five-month debt, agree to the forced collection of contributions²⁸.

In 1851, during the arrangement of streets in Rosha, it was emphasized that the costs should be covered primarily by the community. The village elders (*viits*) were

urged to inform residents who felt obligated that a pile of rubble should be delivered immediately for each new recruit²⁹. In the second half of the 19th century, the parish community of Rosha began the construction of a new stone church, which required significant expenses. The elected representatives openly stated their fear of financial responsibility, given the poverty of the population. In the event of non-payment, they would face forced collection, which could cause social tension³⁰.

At the same time, contradictions regarding the parish house intensified. Built in 1857 with funds from the religious fund without the community's consent and with the participation of an unqualified contractor, it was laid on damp ground, which led to the development of «violet fungus». Its destruction began as early as 1863; subsequent repairs were carried out in 1871, 1882, and 1886, and another, the fourth, was planned for 1890. The outraged community declared that the house was built without their participation, was of low quality, and now they were being demanded to pay 9,000 florins for repairs. The parishioners resolutely opposed funding these works. The Orthodox Consistory, warning against potential confessional conflicts, recognized the community as «completely impoverished and insolvent». It was recommended that the repairs be carried out at the expense of the religious fund and that the tender conditions be changed – one-third of the costs should be borne by the community, and two-thirds by the patron³¹.

The construction of the Rosha-Hlynysia road imposed a particular financial burden. The case from the 1860s details the mandatory labour duties: *Fronddienst* (forced labour), *Gespanne* (draft power – a pair of oxen or horses with a cart), and *Handdienste* (manual labour). The archival case provides lists of mandatory works, including those not performed in previous years. In 1860, the communities of Rosha (Moldavian and German) owed 5,811.7 man-days of manual labour and 1,864.6 days with carts. After deducting the debt, there remained 35,678 man-days and 16,401.6 days with carts. The same case includes a table of work distribution:

Locality	Draft Animals	Draft Days (<i>Zugtage</i>)	Manual Days (<i>Handtage</i>)
Rosha	1200	4200	5400
Klokuchka	180	1620	1800
Mykhalche	270	1470	1740

The protocol of the 1859 competitive agreement also stated that in case of non-fulfillment of labour norms, the community was obliged to compensate for them with money³².

A critical factor was also the devastating drought of 1865, which resulted in mass famine in the region. The report of the Executive Committee of the Bukovinian Regional Sejm for the period from November 1, 1865, to October 1866 noted: «The harvest was almost completely destroyed, especially corn as the main food product.

Livestock, especially young animals, were sold for next to nothing, as there was no fodder. As a result, most peasants found themselves at the level of the proletariat». In 1865, only 9% of the usual harvest was collected, which led to mass famine: in 1865-1866, 5,823 people died in Bukovina, and more than 3,000 more died from starvation-related dystrophy in 1867³³.

Causes of the Uprising. The peasant uprising in the suburb of Rosha in 1871 took place against the backdrop of systemic tax pressure, financial and labour duties

²⁷ DACHO, F. 3, Op. 2, Ref. 3126, Ark. 16zv.

²⁸ DACHO, F. 39, Op. 1, Ref. 535, Ark. 35

²⁹ DACHO, F. 3, Op. 2, Ref. 194, Ark. 4.

³⁰ DACHO, F. 3, Op. 2, Ref. 13430.

³¹ DACHO, F. 3, Op. 2, Ref. 15457.

³² DACHO, F. 3, Op. 4, Ref. 1228.

³³ Botushans'kyi V.M., Chayka H. V. Emihratsiya z Bukovyny ... [Emigration from Bukovina], op. cit., p. 25, 29-30 [in Ukrainian].

related to the community's «competitive» participation in infrastructure and church projects. The situation escalated after 1864, when the suburban villages were incorporated into Chernivtsi (decision of the city council of September 19, 1864, № 55385), losing their autonomy in administrative and fiscal matters. At meetings on May 25 and December 15, 1866, the Chernivtsi city council decided to introduce a rental fee for grazing livestock (*Weidezins*) on public pastures in the suburbs of Rosha, Kalichanka, Horecha, and Klokuchka. It is clear that the innovation caused dissatisfaction – as the communities considered themselves the successors of the traditional right to free grazing, which was enshrined since the Moldavian era. Therefore, the introduction of the fee in the suburbs was postponed until 1868. In response, the residents of Rosha, Kalichanka, and Horecha filed appeals to the Regional Committee of Bukovina, justifying their claims with legal grounds.

A long bureaucratic red tape then began: on July 1, 1868, the advisor of the Regional Administration reported that the case had not yet been considered at the local level and refrained from further decisions. The appeal was repeatedly sent between institutions. On October 8, 1869, the city magistracy considered the complaint, confirming that the decision to introduce

Weidezins was made in favour of the communal treasury, not the suburban community. According to the decision of December 15, 1866, the suburbs were granted a grace period – the grazing fee was to take effect from 1868.

Particular outrage was caused by the change in the tax procedure: previously, the fee was determined according to household lists and took into account their wealth, whereas the new system provided for payment for each head of livestock – without taking into account the economic situation of the households. This looked like the final deprivation of an ancient privilege – the last element of the former freedom to use common resources (forests, mines, pastures, etc.). The residents of the central part of the city were informed about the new procedure on April 12, 1867, and the residents of the suburbs only on April 16, 1868. While the residents of the city and Klokuchka submitted to the innovation, the residents of Rosha, Horecha, and Kalichanka refused to pay and continued to use the pastures for free.

Course of Events. On May 15, 1871, the Regional Committee finally rejected the appeals of the suburban residents regarding the introduction of the mandatory fee for the use of public pastures (*Weidezins*). In accordance with this decision, on May 20, the residents were officially notified of the obligation to pay, and the procedure for its forced implementation was initiated. However, in Rosha, the situation escalated: the peasants openly ignored the ban on grazing livestock and continued to use the fields, which were already sown with grain. In response, the city authorities delegated the magistracy official Rey to Rosha to implement the administrative order. On June 1, 1871, he arrived at the location accompanied by seven police officers. The meeting with the local residents, mostly women, turned into a mass resistance – the protesters

physically blocked access to the plots and prevented the order from being carried out. The official's attempt to walk through the streets of the suburb ended in a violent clash: Rey was beaten and forced to flee, hiding in a private house. His life was in real danger.

The magistracy, having informed the Regional Administration about the incident, made an urgent request for military assistance – specifically, two companies of regular troops – to ensure law and order, implement the administrative decision, and free the official, who was effectively being held by the peasants in Rosha. It was established that the magistracy's own resources were insufficient to perform the tasks. In response, the authorities provided a unit of ten soldiers from the Imperial-Royal Battalion stationed in Chernivtsi. The soldiers were accompanied by magistracy officials Kinlinger and the freed Rey. On June 2, the magistracy advisor Kinlinger, accompanied by the military, made a second trip to the suburb to implement the said decision of the Regional Committee. Thanks to decisive actions, the arrest of the instigators of the uprising, and the intervention of a police patrol, the conflict was localized. The crowd was dispersed, and order was restored. The military unit, although present at the scene, did not take part in a direct clash, as further resistance was suppressed after the first arrests, and the residents «peacefully» dispersed. On the same day, the military was recalled, and the detainees were taken to the Imperial-Royal Regional Court for criminal cases to initiate an investigation.

It is worth noting that the rural community was supported by the local landowner Leon Dumitrescul, who on those days sent a telegram to the Minister of Internal Affairs of Austria-Hungary in Vienna. The text of the telegram is as follows: «The village of Rosha near Chernivtsi, with over 6,000 residents, has always been an independent, free community since the founding of the new communities. Against the will of the community, it was declared a suburb of Chernivtsi. The Chernivtsi city administration decided to introduce a fee for the use of pastures in Rosha, which the residents had used for free since time immemorial. The complaint of the Rosha community was rejected by the regional executive committee (*Landesausschuss*). The implementation of this decision is being carried out by military means – which has caused terrible outrage among the population. Animal husbandry – the main source of income in Rosha – was disrupted by the introduction of this fee. This is an interference with ancient community property. This state of affairs constitutes a serious injustice. I ask for the complaint to be considered at a high level. We urgently request by telegraph to suspend the execution until a ministerial decision is made on the matter and to send a telegraphic response to the address of Leon Dumitrescu, village of Rosha. Paid for 40 words. Community of Rosha»³⁴.

It should be noted that Leon Dumitrescul was a respected and influential figure in the Rosha community. He likely inherited the land from his father, Heorhiy Dumitrescu, who as early as 1816 donated his own premises for the establishment of a trivial school in

³⁴ DACHO, F. 3. Op. 2. Ref. 6877.

the suburb. In 1882, Leon Dumitrescul is mentioned as one of the representatives of the Orthodox parish community of Roshia in the case of acquiring a land plot for the construction of a new church³⁵. Already in

1883, he appears as one of the founders of the charitable «Society of the Chernivtsi Suburb of Rosha for Assistance» («*Societatea suburbiului Cernăuților Roșă spre sprijinire*»)³⁶.

MINISTERIUM DES INNERN

F. 2. Juni 1871 Nr. 7724.

TELEGRAMM.

Monat _____

VOR _____

Nr.	Ortsteil	Zahl der Worte	Zeit der Aufgabe				Zeit der Ankunft				
			Datum	Stunde	Minute	Sekunde	Datum	Stunde	Minute	Sekunde	

WIEN CZERNOWITZ 147 9 2 6 30 N

EXCELLENZ MINISTER GRAF HOCHENWARTH WIEJ = ORTSCHAFT ROSCH

BEI CZERNOWITZ UEBER 6000 EINWOHNER SEIT JEHR

SELBSTAENDIGE FREIE GEMEINDE SEIT NEUER GEMEINDE.

ORGANISIRUNG WIDER WILLEN ALS VORSTADT CZERNOWITZ ERKLAERT

GEMEINDE VERTRETUNG CZERNOWITZ BESCHLOSZ WEIDEZINS AUF

ROSCHER HUTWEIDEN EINZUFUEHREN WELCHE ROSCHER

INSASSEN SEIT MENSCHENDENKEN FREI BENUETZEN . REKURS

GEMEINDE ROSCH LANDESAUSSCHUSZ RUECKGEWIESEN GESTERN HEUTE

MILITAEREXECUTION ZUR WEGNAHME HUTWEIDEN UNGEHEUERE AUFRUEGUNG

Viehzucht Hauptsaechlicher Erwerb in Rosch durch

Weidezins gestoert Eingriff in Undenklichen Faktischen

Zustand an sich schweres Unrecht . bereiten vor Rekurs

Hohes Ministerium bitten Instaadigst. telegrafische

Sistierung execution bis ministerielle rekursentscheidung

Nd telegrafischen bescheid zu haenden Leon Dumitreskul

Rosch 4c worte gezalt = = Gemeinde Rosch +

Antwort gegeben Tief vben

Fig. 1. Text of the telegram from L. Dumitreskul sent to the Minister of Internal Affairs of Austria-Hungary on June 3, 1871. Source: DACHO, F. 3. Op. 2. Ref. 6877).

Correspondence from 1864-1865 between the Ministry of Trade and the landowner of the Roshia suburb, Leon Dumitrescul, who challenged the decision of the regional administration to ban logging on the city's territory³⁷, has also been preserved in the State Archives of Chernivtsi Oblast. In his appeals, he, in particular, emphasized the violation of the traditional right to use the forest and pointed to possible corrupt motives for the decision.

Conclusions In 1887, the head of the Rosha parish community was Constantin Dumitrescul³⁸, while from 1892 to 1899, Elisabeta Dumitrescul chaired the audit committee of the Rosha branch of the «Society of Romanian Women of Bukovina»³⁹. Thus, the Dumitrescul family played a progressive role in Rosha.

The peasant uprising in the Chernivtsi suburb of Roshia, which lasted from June 1 to June 9, 1871, was

a reaction by the local community to the Austrian city administration's attempt to introduce a new rental fee for grazing livestock. This innovation not only contradicted the residents' understanding of their historical right to free use of pastures but also exacerbated social tension in the context of a prolonged economic crisis. Specifically:

- First, the right to free grazing of livestock was a long-standing custom and was perceived as inalienable.
- Second, the new tax system for each head of livestock did not take into account the property status of households.
- Third, at the time of the tax's introduction, the population of Rosha was already in a state of socio-economic exhaustion due to prolonged tax pressure, including expenses for the maintenance of church buildings, the school, road repairs, and the consequences of the 1865 famine.

³⁵ DACHO, F. 3, Op. 2, Ref. 13430, Ark. 51.

³⁶ DACHO, F. 3, Op. 2, Ref. 12886, Ark. 4.

³⁷ DACHO, F. 3, Op. 2, Ref. 5413.

³⁸ DACHO, F. 3, Op. 2, Ref. 13430, Ark. 78.

³⁹ DACHO, F. 3, Op. 2, Ref. 15313, Ark. 28, 29, 31.

The main income of the residents of Rosha came from small land plots, animal husbandry, and the day labour of men. The organized resistance of the peasants took the form of mass disobedience, as a result of which the Austrian authorities resorted to repressive measures, including military intervention, arrests, and criminal prosecutions. Based on the analysis of archival documents, the chronology of events, the legal aspects of the conflict, and the participation of key figures (in particular, Leon Dumitrescu) in defending the community's interests have been established. The materials presented in the article are introduced into scientific circulation for the first time, which provides the research with significant source value and interpretative novelty. Thus, the act of civil disobedience in Rosha can be considered an example of local resistance to the modern fiscal policy of the Habsburg Empire, which was carried out with disregard for the needs and situation of the indigenous population.

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