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SOCIO-DEMOGRAFIC HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL STUDY  
OF THE 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY VORONETSKAYA VOLOST' OF THE OPOCHETSKY UYEZD OF THE PSKOV PROVINCE

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*The article is devoted to the socio-demographic characteristics of the Voronetskaya Volost' of the Opochetzky Uyezd of the Pskov Province in the 18th century on the basis of confessional registers with the involvement of quantitative methods of data processing. The revealed social groups, sex-age structure, parish features are described.*

**Introduction.** The relevance of the research is due to a number of reasons that are of immediate importance for the development of modern historical science. Firstly, the problems under study are timely due to the fact that there are no monographs concerning comprehensive historical and statistical study of the territory of the Voronetskaya Volost' of the Opochetzky Uyezd of the Pskov Province in the 18th century. Secondly, the relevance of the theme is connected with the necessity of inclusion of the unpublished scripts, such as Fund No. 39 Confessional Registers of the Pskov Region State Archives, into the scientific turnover and thorough study. At the same time, the use of a statistical method for data processing and computer analysis of mass sources are also most promising areas in local history today.

**Task Formulation.** The object of the study is the confessional registers of the Svyatogorsky Monastery and the Churches of St. Paraskeva, St. George and Resurrection of the Voronetskaya Volost'.

The subject of the study is the number, structure and accommodation of the parish population of the Voronetskaya Volost' of the Opochetzky Uyezd in the 18th century.

The goal of our research is to provide a comprehensive historical and statistical study of the territory of the Voronetskaya Volost' of the Opochetzky Uyezd in the Pskov Province in the 18th century.

The objectives of the study include:

- 1) definition of the boundaries of the Voronetskaya Volost' and its internal structure;
- 2) description of the territory of the Voronetskaya Volost' settlement system;
- 3) presentation of the parish population of the Voronetskaya Volost' dynamics during the 18th century;
- 4) reconstruction of the most visual and objective statistical picture on the basis of the sources used.

**Sources.** Confessional Registers are documents of Church records of the population of the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries, which contain information on the state of the parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church. The study was carried out on the basis of materials of the parishes of the Svyatogorsky Monastery and the Church of St. Paraskeva [1], the Church of Resurrection [2] and the Church of St. George [3] of the Voronetskaya Volost' of the Opochetzkiy Uyezd of the Pskov Province for the period from 1740 to 1799. While selecting sources, a scientific selection method was used. The obtained sample is representative, natural, and mechanical (a ten-year interval between the compilation of the Registers ( $\pm 1-2$  year) was chosen).

The reliability of the data of the Confessional Registers is the subject of a dispute among the researchers. I.I. Dietrich [4], B.N. Mironov [5, p. 114], A.I. Fedorets [6, p. 73] note a sufficiently high degree of reliability of documents of this type, despite errors in indicating the age of parishioners, numbering, and the names of settlements. We tend to consider the inaccuracies to be inessential, since they do not change the statistical picture cardinally.

**Research Methods.** The fundamental methods of this study are descriptive method, comparative historical method, historical-genetic method, system method, as well as the structural-functional approach. The study also uses special methods from other branches of science, which makes it possible to put an interdisciplinary approach into practice.

The research is concentrated, focused and based on quantitative methods. While collecting information on the presence population of the parishes, the number of households and the number of persons of both sexes within the boundaries of one settlement, the age structure, numerical information on the identified class groups, the totality of families within a single yard, the method of continuous data processing was used. To demonstrate and analyze the obtained indicators, a historical-dynamic method, which involves constructing in a tabular form

dynamic series and calculating the system of indicators of dynamics, was applied [7, p. 178-179]. One of these indicators is the calculation of the level measure (the average household population, the average number of families living in the yard, and the average age of individuals of both sexes), which implies the calculation of the arithmetic average value [7, p. 89]. This method is aimed at a comprehensive analysis of the demographic and socio-economic trends changing in time. With the help of this method, the problem of describing and evaluating quantitative changes in the studied territorial-time borders is solved.

Method of computer processing of information was used. Just after the electronic counting of quantitative indicators, two methods of data aggregation were used: 1) tabular form; 2) graphic representation (diagrams and histograms). The usage of this method of demonstrating quantitative information allowed us to present a clear demonstration of the dynamics of changes. To reflect the population structure of the parish population, an interval variational series, built on the principle of equal intervals (for five-year age groups) were used [7, p. 81]. The age-sex pyramids served as a tool for visualization.

**Methodology of the Research and Results.** Quantitative accounting was carried out in two main directions: statistics of the arrivals and settlements and calculations within the social categories. In the first case, when comparing the data, there arose difficulties of the following order: 1) the territory of the parishes was not stable and could both decrease and expand, which led to a reduction in the clergy or, on the contrary, fragmentation of the parish between several priests; 2) the same villages during the period under study could fall out and appear several times [8, p. 222]. I.D. Kovalchenko noted the impossibility of comparing the digital totals for the same territory, the boundaries of which vary with time [7, p. 178]. Inconsistency of this kind is eliminated by the definition of a complex of settlements that was stable in each of the parishes.

In the second case, it was necessary to identify the social groups themselves. In the documents examined in the course of our research [1; 2; 3] the following groups are found: clergy, raznochintsy, military people, posadskie (Voronich suburb), dvorovye (yard servants), villagers (bachelors and peasants). Peasants are divided into: palace (specific), ecclesiastical (before secularization in 1764), economic (confiscated from monasteries after 1764), landlords. Often, the data processing is complicated by the fact that the principle of the arrangement of persons in strict accordance with their class membership was not always respected. A.I. Fedorets notes that the compilers of the Registers could include people of certain ranks in a particular category, basing on their own considerations [6, p. 68].

The average peasant household of the Church of Resurrection in 1740 was 8.7 people, and in 1799 - 10.2 people; the average age in the parish of the Svyatogorsky Monastery and the Church of St. Paraskeva in 1761 for men was 25.8 years, for women 26 years, and in 1798 25.5 and 24.1 years respectively. In the analysis of the family typology of all three parishes, it was revealed that the dominant type for the peasantry is a compound family (an average of 3 married couples in one yard), and for the clergy, military people, raznochintsy and posadskie — a small family is typical [8, p. 222–223].

The analysis of the sex-age structure of the parish population revealed a common feature for all three parishes: a large percentage of children (1-12 years old) and young people (12-25 years old) and a low percentage of the elderly people (65 and over), which is characteristic of progressive population pyramids [8, p. 223]. However A.I. Fedorets notes that the data about the age of the parish should be treated with caution, since the originator of the document in most cases estimated the age of parishioners casually, not knowing the exact date of their birth. Therefore, the real age could differ from the given figure both for one year and for 10 years [6, c. 71].

It should be noted that the parishes had their own features and differed significantly, both in number of households and in number of parishioners: the parish of the Svyatogorsky Monastery and the Church of St. Paraskeva were the most compact and stable [1]; the parish of the Church of St. George was the largest and the most diverse in terms of the number of patrimonies and homeowners, but at the same time the most unstable in number [2]; the parish of the Church of Resurrection was relatively balanced in the number of patrimonies, but also unstable in relation to the number of the parish population [3].

According to the type of the predominant patrimonies, the parish of the Svyatogorsky Monastery and the Church of St. Paraskeva can be designated as "monastery-palace", the parish of the Resurrection church is "palace", and the parish of the Church of St. George is "landowner" [1; 2; 3]. In most cases, these socio-economic differences in parishes were determined by both territorial distribution, political and economic trends, and historically established traditions.

According to the confessional registers, we have established several groups of the parish population: clergy, raznochintsy, military people, posadskie (Voronich suburb), yard servants, villagers (bachelors and peasants) [1; 2;

3]. The most numerous was the category of villagers. Summarizing this group, we come to the conclusion that the peasant population of the Voronetskaya Volost' in the 18th century reflected the main socio-demographic trends occurring in the peasant environment of the European part of the Russian Empire in the 18th century, namely: high fertility rates, living couples in a large composite family, incorporating small families into the parent family yard for joint economic activities. We also note the enlargement of courtyards and peasant settlements, which is also associated with administrative and fiscal transformations and demographic population growth in the second half of the 18th century. The category classified as "posadskie" consisted of hereditary representatives of this class group. By the end of the century, the category of "posadskie" disappeared altogether from the registers of the Church of St. George, and was replaced by the category of burgers in the registers of the Church of Resurrection, which is also associated with social stratification changes in the state. The greatest noblemen in the parishes were Vydonskie and Gannibaly. The overwhelming majority of landowners received patrimonies in the second half of the 18th century, all possessions were transferred from the state patrimony.

**Results and Perspectives.** The analysis of the administrative-territorial division of the studied territory also revealed difficulties in identifying the boundaries of territorial districts ("guba") and mapping of settlements, as well as correlating one or other settlement to the corresponding territorial districts. Also at the moment it is difficult to answer the question why, when comparing the registers of the same parishes, but from different years, some localities "fall out" and some appear. A more detailed study of a topographical aspect and analysis of the identified toponyms are required.

As a result of analyzing the data of the confessional registers of the Svyatogorsky Monastery and the Church of St. Paraskeva, the Church of St. George and the Church of Resurrection it was revealed that the composition of the population and its number was subject to constant fluctuations, and changes due to a combination of various factors: social, demographic, economic. So, based on the analysis of the established population structure, we can conclude that in the parishes there were more children and young people than middle-aged and elderly people. However, it is necessary to attract additional sources to analyze the mortality rate and life expectancy of the parish population. Also in the parishes under analysis there is an increase in the number of parishioners, which is due to the demographic surge, which is fixed in the Russian Empire from the middle of the 18th century. However, it should be noted that the lack of a part of confessional registers for the parishes of the Church of St. George and the Church of Resurrection of the Voronetskaya Volost' makes the data calculation, the identification of totals and the extrapolation of the results more complicated.

**Conclusion.** Thus, the historical-statistical method is the most important instrument for identifying the dynamics and patterns, generalizing and systematizing information, analyzing certain indicators and relating them to historical realities. We've managed to identify and study statistical trends in the territory now occupied by the museum-reserve of Alexander Pushkin «Mikhailovskoye». These are the parishes of the Svyatogorsky Monastery and the Church of St. Paraskeva, the Church of St. George and the Church of Resurrection of the Voronetskaya Volost' in the 40s - 90s of the 18th century. Confessional registers, despite some inaccuracies in the data provided in them and difficulties for analysis, have a high informational potential for conducting statistical research on the social composition of the Orthodox population of the parishes. The nearest perspective for the designated research direction is the attraction of mathematical methods, the inclusion of the southern part of the Voronetskaya Volost' in the analysis, creation of a source-oriented database in the relational database management system Microsoft Office Access, as well as the attraction of a new complex of sources (clergy registers, parish registers, etc.).

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**Linguistics, literature, philology**

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