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The Stremoukhovs. Local Nobility and Administrative Apparatus of the Russian Empire in the 19th-early 20th Century

Stremouchowowie. Szlachta ziemiańska i aparat rządowy Imperium Rosyjskiego XIX – początku XX wieku

ABSTRACT

Using the example of the old Stremoukhov family, which belonged to the provincial aristocracy, the author tries to illustrate the peculiarities of the relationship between the state power apparatus and the nobility. The nobility in the social system of the Russian state existed as a class that monopolized property rights to manage the state. The economic and social well-being of the entire nobility and its individual members was directly related to the membership in this class and the position held in it, the degree of well-being depended on the position held within the apparatus of power and personal merits, which a given member achieved for it. The collapse of the old system of relations between the state and the nobility at the beginning of the 18th century leads to the transformation of the nobility from a class to an estate, membership in which was conditioned by birth rights. The land, which was the economic basis of the nobility, undergone a transformation

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from being a temporary property to an inheritable one. Although the nobility gained in that way independence from the burden of state service, the state service continued to have existential significance for the nobility, which is reflected in Russian noble heraldry. The decline of the nobility as a class is associated with the reforms of the state apparatus in the first half of the 19th century, which paved the way into it for the educated representatives of the unprivileged estates, and the agrarian crisis in the second half of the 19th century, which undermined the economic basis of the nobility. The aristocratic local nobility begins to be removed from the state administration apparatus by a proletarianised bureaucracy formed by impoverished old nobility and landless *raznochintsy*, who has become the new ruling class. The history of the Stremoukhov family, spread over five centuries, demonstrates, in many ways common to all Russian nobility, the processes of transformation of the Moscow nobles into provincial landowners, then into professional bureaucrats and declassified nobles.

Key words: landed nobility, state apparatus, forms of participation of the nobility in the state administration, service for the nobility elections, administrative services, transformation of the ruling elite, the ruin of the old nobility, proletarianised bureaucracy

STRESZCZENIE

Na przykładzie starego rodu Stremouchowów, należącego do szlachty prowincjonalnej, autor stara się zilustrować specyfikę relacji między aparatem władzy państwowej a szlachtą. Szlachta w systemie społecznym Państwa Rosyjskiego funkcjonowała jako klasa, która zmonopolizowała prawo do rządzenia państwem. Dobrobyt ekonomiczny i społeczny całej szlachty i jej poszczególnych członków był bezpośrednio związany z przynależnością do tej klasy i zajmowaną w niej pozycją, jak również stopień dobrobytu, zależały od zajmowanego stanowiska w aparacie władzy i zasług osobistych przed nim. Załamanie się dawnego systemu stosunków między państwem a szlachtą na początku XVIII w. prowadzi do przekształcenia szlachty z klasy w stan, w którym przynależność była uwarunkowana prawem urodzenia. Ziemia, która była fundamentem ekonomicznym szlachty, przekształciła się z własności tymczasowej w dziedziczną. Chociaż szlachta uniezależnia się w ten sposób od ciężaru służby państwowej, służba ta zachowuje dla szlachty znaczenie egzystencjalne, co znajduje odzwierciedlenie w rosyjskiej heraldyce szlacheckiej. Upadek szlachty jako klasy związany jest z reformami aparatu państwowego pierwszej połowy XIX w., które otworzyły drogę wykształconym przedstawicielom stanów nieuprzywilejowanych oraz z kryzysem agrarnym drugiej połowy XIX w., który podważył fundamenty gospodarcze szlachty. Arystokratyczna szlachta ziemiańska zaczyna być wypierana z aparatu rządowego przez proletaryzowaną biurokrację, utworzoną z zubożałej starej szlachty i bezrolnych *raznochynców*, która stała się nową klasą rządzącą. Historia rodu Stremouchowów na przestrzeni pięciu stuleci ukazuje, pod wieloma względami wspólne dla całej szlachty rosyjskiej, procesy przekształcania szlachty moskiewskiej w prowincjonalnych właścicieli ziemskich, a następnie w zawodową biurokrację i zdeklasowaną szlachtę.

Słowa kluczowe: szlachta ziemiańska, aparat państwowy, formy udziału szlachty w rządzeniu państwem, szlachecka służba wyborcza, służba administracyjna, przemiany elity rządzącej, ruina starej szlachty, proletaryzowana biurokracja

An estate somewhere in the middle of Russia. The road, lined with poplars or birches, leading from the road to the manor house built of

logs, often consisting of one story. Inside, solid antique furniture made of Karelian birch, an old grandfather clock, and the faces of ancestors in old uniforms and dresses that have become clouded with time, looking at the paintings on the walls made by home-grown artists. The head of the family, having served several years in the guard as a young man, has retired and is serving for elections. The estate is managed by his wife, who leads the servants and treats the peasant children. Children, as they grow up, fly away from the family nest, according to the tradition, to the cadet corps or, according to the trends of the times, to provincial high schools and universities. This picture was a typical presentation of the traditional world of the Russian local nobility, which in the middle of the 19th century served as the main source of personnel for command positions in the army and navy, as well as for responsible positions in the administrative and bureaucratic apparatus of the Russian Empire. The Stremoukhov family was flesh of flesh of this world, sharing such fate entirely.

Despite their ancient origins, the Stremoukhovs remained unfairly overlooked by historians, and even by the beginning of the 20th century, their genealogy was still unstudied. According to the genealogy sent in 1686 to Razryadny (Military) Archive by Stolniks Fyodor Ivanovich Stremoukhov and Vasily Fyodorovich Stremoukhov, the founder of the Stremoukhov family, Alexander, the son of a Greek of Constantinople, Afanasy Stromatoros, entered the service to the Grand Prince of Moscow Vasily II the Blind¹. After the death of the Grand Prince in 1462, he went into the service of his son, Prince Boris, who inherited the Principality of Volotsk and later, together with his descendants, served in Volok Lamsky. Alexander had two sons, Prov, who died childless, and Gavriila, who, in 1471, as part of an Advanced Regiment under the command of Prince Daniil Dmitrievich Kholmsky, participated in the campaign of the Moscow troops of Grand Prince of Moscow, Ivan III Vasilyevich to Novgorod land, where he was wounded in the leg. For the service in Novgorod Prince Boris Vasilyevich Volotsky granted him an estate in Volok Lamsky². Avoiding arguments about the authenticity of this genealogical legend, it can be stated with confidence that the first reliable news about the Stremoukhovs belong to the beginning of the 16th

¹ Российский Государственный Исторический Архив [dalej: РГИА], фонд [dalej: f.] 1343, опис [dalej: op.] 29, дело [dalej: d.] 7259, к. 8–10.

² S.Z. Chernov refers the Stremoukhovs to local Volotsk names. According to his research, the estate of Timofey Grigoryevich (!) Stremoukhov was located in the Lnianikov stan of the Volotsk Principality. С.З. Чернов, *Волок Ламский в XIV-первой половине XVI в. Структуры землевладения и формирование военно-служилой корпорации*, Москва 1998, s. 107.

century – they are referred to as the owners of Volotsk ancestral lands and benefactors of the Volotsk monastery³. Gavriła's grandson, Mikhail Timofeyevich Stremoukhov, was killed when King Stefan Batory captured the city of Sokol (Polotsk suburb) on September 25, 1579. His eldest son Ostafi, nicknamed Stanislav, moved to Novgorod-Seversky and served in the First Strelets Regiment, the other son, Sergei, remained in Volok Lamsky.

Stanislav Stremoukhov had five sons: Vasily, nicknamed Bolshoy (Great), Vasily Sutorma, Alexey Volokita, Sergei Terpigor, and the fifth son named Vasilisk. In 1578, among the Novgorod-Seversk nobles and boyar children chosen for the German campaign, Vasily Stanislavovich Stremoukhov is mentioned riding on *argamak*⁴, with a *saadak*⁵, with a saber and in an armour. Ivan Stremoukhov, son of Vasily Stanislavovich Bolshoy, in 1605, after False Dmitry retreated from Novgorod-Seversky, was sent with a seunch (report) to Tsar Boris Fyodorovich, and in 1617–1618 conducted the investigation about voivodes and *gubnoy starostas*⁶ in Kromy, Kursk, Karachev, and Sevsk. In 1634 he was Voivode of Trubchevsk, in 1639–1648, in Chernavsk, he served on the Moscow list of the nobility. On 17 March 1650 from service because of old age and injuries was delayed with preservation in Novgorod-Seversky *desyatna*⁷ of local salary of 1000 *chetiya*⁸ and money 10 rubles, but instead of him in the Moscow list his son Pyotr with a salary of 550 *chetiya* and money of 30 rubles was written. Pyotr Ivanovich Stremoukhov in 1654–1655 was with Tsar Alexey Mikhailovich in the Regiment in the Lithuanian campaign in the *sotnya*⁹ at *Stolnik*¹⁰, Prince Ivan Repnin, in 1655, released from Smolensk due to illness and died on 18th of December in Moscow and was buried behind the Yauza river in a poor house. His only son, Mikhail Petrovich, also served on the Moscow list, participated in the Crimean campaigns, in 1686 *Stolnik*¹¹. The second son of Ivan Vasilyevich, Fyodor, also served on the Moscow list of the nobility. Appointed on the 21st of March 1667 Voivode in Orel, on the 21st of February 1670 was sent as Voivode to

³ The author expresses his cordial gratitude to M. Bentsianov for help in writing this article.

⁴ *argamak* – Caucasian riding-horse (translator's note).

⁵ *saadak* (hist.) – quiver with arrows (translator's note).

⁶ *Gubnoy starosta* (hist.) – an elder elected by a local community to perform the role of criminal judge for the district (translator's note).

⁷ *desyatna* (hist.) – military salary lists of the nobles and knights (translator's note).

⁸ *chetiya* (hist.) – means of payment (translator's note).

⁹ *sotnya* (hist.) – a military unit of about 100–150 persons (translator's note).

¹⁰ *Stolnik* (hist.) – a Russian court rank in the 13–17-th centuries (translator's note).

¹¹ РГИА, f. 1343, op. 29, d. 7259, k. 127.

Oboyan. In 1675, he was on the List of nobles and children of the boyars of Novgorod-Seversky, local salary with surcharges of 650 *chetiya*, money 26 rubles. In 1675, he was sent by Royal decree to Trubchevsk, Tambov, Upper and Lower Lomov, and Shatsk to collect monetary and bear short-falls for previous years. In 1676, by the order of the Grand Palace, he was sent to Bryansk, Trubchevsk, Rylsk, Kromy, Belev, Kursk, Bolkhov, Mtsensk, Putivl, Karachev, to Sevsky uyezd *to write the city and in the city attire order, and in the uyezds to write and to mark the limits of the lands and describe all sorts of lands*. In the Crimean campaign of 1687, he was Captain, then Colonel. In 1688, he was in Samara in the city business, in 1689, in the second Crimean campaign as Colonel. In 1689, he was written as *Stolnik*. In 1703–1706, the commandant in Pereyaslavl Yuzhny. His sons also served on the Moscow list. Vasily, *Stolnik*, in 1728 retired for old age from service as Brigadier, Ivan, *Stolnik* and Alexander, in 1692 written among *zhyltsy*¹² and commanders. *Stolnik* Ivan Mikhailovich Stremouhov, great-great-grandson of Vasily Bolshoy through his son Dmitry, in 1692 was written in *Stolniks*, the ancestor of the senior Kursk branch. In 1683, he and his brother inherited their father's estate in Spassky stan of Rylsk uyezd in the village of Kuydintsevo, and Ust near the lake Fitezh, which until 1917 remained in the family possession. Nikita Afanasyevich Stremoukhov, the grandson of Sergei Terpigor Stanislavovich, was Voivode in Oboyan, and his son Rodion was appointed Voivode in Taletsk by a Royal decree on the 16 March 1676. Sergei Mikhailovich Stremoukhov, the younger brother of Ostafiy-Stanislav, who remained to serve in Volok Lamsky, had a son Andrey and grandchildren Matvey, nicknamed Tretyak, and Leonty, childless. Tretyak Stremoukhov served on the Moscow list in the nobles and in 1605 was with the boyar and Voivode, Prince Fyodor Ivanovich Mstislavsky, and with Princes Vasily Ivanovich and Dmitry Ivanovich Shuisky in a large regiment as Voivode. After the death of Tretyak and Leonty Stremoukhov, their estate in the Volokolamsk uyezd became desolate and on the 16 March 1642 was given to Ignatyi Torkhov, and then passed to Vasily Khripunov. The son of Matvey, Nikita Tretyakov Stremoukhov according to *desyatnyas* of 1627–1629 served in Novgorod Seversky with a local salary of 350 *chetiya* and money of 10 rubles¹³.

During the 18th century, the Stremoukhovs belonged to the wealthy provincial nobility of the Southern Russia, which regularly supplied officers to the guard and army, and after retirement served in elected positions in the districts of Kursk and Oryol governorates. The typical

¹² Zhyltsy – one of the categories of service rank in the Russian Kingdom (translator's note).

¹³ РГИА, f. 1343, op. 29, d. 7259, k. 127v.

representatives of this environment were, for example, brothers, Cornets Vasily and Sergey Nikiforovich Stremoukhov, assessors of the Dmitrievsk District Court; Lieutenant Gavriila Stepanovich Stremoukhov, assessor of the Belopolsky District Lower Zemsky Court; Lieutenant Elisey Stepanovich Stremoukhov, assessor of the Putivl Lower Zemsky Court; Prime-major Ivan Afanasyevich Stremoukhov, Lgovsky District judge, and his son Major Mikhailo Ivanovich Stremoukhov – *Ispravnik*¹⁴ of the Lgovsk Lower Zemsky Court. Social significance in the provincial world and familiarity with the capital's aristocratic environment emphasized a rare attribute for the nobility of that time – the family coat of arms. Its early image is known from the seal of Mikhail Stremoukhov, dating back to the second half of the 18th century¹⁵. With a few changes, the coat of arms was officially approved by the Heralds office at the request of the regimental quartermaster, Stepan Afanasyevich Stremoukhov on the 23rd of February, 1798 and, later, entered the General Armorial of the Noble Families of the Russian Empire¹⁶. Also, the above mentioned S. A. Stremoukhov revealed in the Heralds office the most complete genealogy of the Stremoukhovs.

By the beginning of the 19th century, there were three branches of the family that owned estates in the Rylsky, Lgovsky, and Dmitrievsky uyezds of the Kursk governorate. Two of them belonged to the descendants of Ostafiy-Stanislav, who moved to the Kursk lands in the first half of the 16th century, the younger branch came from his brother Sergei, whose descendants moved to the Kursk lands in the first half of the 17th century. In addition to them, there was a branch of the Stremoukhovs, descended from Mikhei Petrovich Stremoukhov, Captain of the Nizhny Novgorod garrison battalion, who lost contact with the main family¹⁷. His descendants were included in the 2nd part of the genealogical books of the Nizhny Novgorod governorate and owned the Nucharovo estate in the Ardatovsky uyezd of the Nizhny Novgorod governorate¹⁸. The last representative of this family was an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Institutions of the Ministry of Trade, Kamer-Junker N. I. Stremoukhov (1874–1914)¹⁹.

The oldest, most famous branch was descended from *Stolnik* Ivan Mikhailovich Stremoukhov. Its members are included into the genealogical books of the nobles of Kursk, Nizhny Novgorod and Kharkov

¹⁴ *Ispravnik* – head of district police (translator's note).

¹⁵ *Гербовник Анисима Титовича Князева*, Санкт Петербург 1912, s. 141.

¹⁶ РГИА, f. 1343, op. 29, d. 7259, k. 1; *Общий гербовник дворянских родов Российской империи*, т. 3, Санкт Петербург 1799, nr 19.

¹⁷ РГИА, f. 1343, op. 29, d. 7264.

¹⁸ РГИА, f. 577, op. 21, d. 144.

¹⁹ РГИА, f. 23, op. 23, d. 1120.

governorates²⁰. The most outstanding representatives of it were the members of the Nizhny Novgorod branch, the founder of which was the grandson of Ivan Mikhailovich Stremoukhov, Brigadier Mikhail Andreyanovich Stremoukhov, who in 1783–1785 served as Chairman of the Chamber of the Orel Civil Court²¹. Migration from the governorate of Kursk into Nizhny Novgorod governorate related to his marriage to the landlady from Nizhny Novgorod, Ekaterina Petrovna Buturlina, brought the family estates in Grudtsyno, Horbatovsky uyezd and in Kobylino, Makaryevsky uyezd²². Their son, Pyotr Mikhailovich Stremoukhov, born in 1771, Lieutenant of the Lifeguard Semenov Regiment, in retirement, served as Marshal of nobility of Gorbatovsk uyezd, Nizhny Novgorod governorate, later as Vice-Governor of Nizhny Novgorod governorate. In his marriage to Anna Ivanovna Belavina, the daughter of the Governor of the Nizhny Novgorod Viceroyalty, Lieutenant General Ivan Savinovich Belavin, he had got 11 children (six sons and five daughters). Four sons, Dmitry, Vladimir, Mikhail and Alexey, quite atypically for the representatives of their social circle, entered the Institute of the Corps of Communications Engineers and devoted their lives to serving in the Department of Railways. The eldest son, Dmitry Petrovich Stremoukhov (1805–1845), graduated in 1824 from the course of science, joined the Corps of transport engineers and spent his entire career improving waterways in the governorates of Central Russia. He died with the rank of Colonel and the position of Assistant Chief of the IV District of Transportation²³. In marriage to Lyubov Alekseyevna Esipova, the daughter of a Collegiate councillor, four children were born, of which we will focus on the son Pyotr. Pyotr Dmitrievich Stremoukhov was born in Nizhny Novgorod on 23 November 1828. He inherited indivisibly together with his brothers and sisters 410 peasant souls in the village of Grudtsyno. After graduating from the Imperial Alexander Lyceum with the rank of Titular councillor in 1849, he joined the prestigious Special Office for Crediting of the Ministry of Finance. After retiring from the service in 1853, he moved to manage the family estate and, a few years later, began to serve on elections. In 1858, the local nobility elected him as the Gorbatovsky uyezd Marshal

²⁰ Cases of the Nobility. РГИА, f. 1343, op. 29, d. 7257–7259, 7265.

²¹ *Месяцеслов с росписью чиновных особ в государстве на лето от Рождества Христова 1783*, Санкт Петербург 1783, s. 248; *Месяцеслов с росписью чиновных особ в государстве на лето от Рождества Христова 1785*, Санкт Петербург 1785, s. 205.

²² РГИА, f. 577, op. 21, d. 758, 1263.

²³ РГИА, f. 1343, op. 29, d. 7259, k. 44, Birth Certificate; f. 200, op. 1, d. 8008, k. 1–5, Formulary List of Service for 1845; *Русский биографический словарь, Смеловский-Суворина*, Санкт Петербург 1909, s. 464; В.И. Сайтов, *Московский некрополь*, т. 3, (Р–Ө), Санкт Петербург 1908, s. 163.

of nobility, and in 1860, he was elected as Nizhny Novgorod governorate Marshal of nobility. The election service traditionally opened the way to an administrative career and, in 1862, P. D. Stremoukhov was appointed to perform the duties of the Ryazan Governor, and in 1864 was approved for this position as Actual State Councillor. A promising career was interrupted by a hidden scandal and Stremoukhov was forced to leave the post in 1866, according to a formal request, for domestic reasons. After being assigned to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, he held the nominal positions of member of the Council of the General Directorate for Press Affairs and member of the Council of the Minister of Internal Affairs, rising to the rank of Privy Councillor, until his retirement in 1881²⁴. By the time of retirement, the Stremoukhov family parted with the family estate in Grudtsyno, and with the newly acquired small Ryazan estate. Another factor that emphasized his social mutation was his marriage to Anna Nikolaevna von Bippen, the daughter of his father's colleague, Engineer-Major-General Nikolai Kornilovich Bippen, and the sister of his classmate at the Alexander Lyceum, Nikolai Nikolaevich Bippen (1828–1900) the future Astrakhan Governor, then Senator, who rose to the rank of Actual privy councillor. The bride-Lutheran belonged to the social environment directly opposite to the traditional Stremoukhov's environment. Despite the coat of arms and the assigned predicate „von“, the family's nobility was well-served, the Bippens themselves were descendants of Pernovsky burghers, although it was the origin of their mother, Anna Fyodorovna, nee Baroness Steingel, that created an illusory connection with the Baltic knighthood. They had a daughter, Elizaveta, and three sons. The eldest, Dmitry Petrovich Stremoukhov (1855–1918), graduated from the Imperial School of Jurisprudence in the rank of Collegiate Secretary in 1877 and served in the Prosecutor's supervision, reaching the top of his career as Active State Councillor and a member of the Moscow Judge's chamber. He was married to a French citizen, Maria Theresa Victoria Valgallier, and had a daughter, Eudokia, born in 1909²⁵. The second, Nikolai Petrovich Stremoukhov (1861–1938), after graduating from the Page Corp, served in the Lifeguard Jaeger Regiment, then graduated from the General Staff Academy. By 1917 – Lieutenant General, chief of the 34th Infantry Division. He died in exile. The youngest son, Pyotr Petrovich Stremoukhov

²⁴ РГИА, f. 1343, op. 29, d. 7259, k. 46, Birth Certificate; f. 1349, op. 3, d. 2164, k. 73–74, Formulary List of Service for 1853; f. 776, op. 4, d. 224, Case of the Service of the Department of the General Directorate for Press Affairs; *Цензоры Российской Империи. Конец XVIII – начало XX века. Библиографический справочник*, Санкт Петербург 2013, s. 339.

²⁵ РГИА, f. 1405, op. 529, d. 326, k. 52–54; f. 1405, op. 525, d. 2119, k. 1–7, Formulary List of Service for 1914.

(1865–1951), also graduated from the Page Corp and was an officer of the Lifeguard Jaeger Regiment, preferred an administrative career to a military one. After retiring in 1892, he entered the civil service as an official of special assignments under the Warsaw Governor-General and subsequently successively held the posts of Kalisz Vice-Governor, Suwalki, Saratov and Kostroma Governors. In 1916, Stremoukhov was promoted to the rank of Jaegermeister and appointed Director of the Department of General Affairs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, whose main task was to manage the personnel of the Department. Soon after graduating from the Corps he married to the sister of his classmate and friend Sofia Alexandrovna Saltykova, who came from an old and aristocratic family, the daughter of the head of the Emperor Alexander II Military cabinet, Lieutenant General Alexander Mikhailovich Saltykov. They had got only one son, Alexander, who graduated from the Corps of Pages and joined the Lifeguard Sapper Battalion²⁶.

Vladimir Petrovich Stremoukhov (1806–1890). He graduated from the Institute in 1824. He served, like his brother Dmitry, in water transport in St. Petersburg and Nizhny Novgorod. For a short time, in 1870, he was the Director of the Department of Water Communications, and the following year he was appointed a supernumerary engineer by the Ministry. Privy councillor²⁷. His only son, Nikolai, also served in the Department of Railways, then in the Department of Road and Water Communications. In 1894, he sold the remains of his father's estate Kobylino in Makaryevsky uyezd²⁸.

Mikhail Petrovich Stremoukhov (1810–1855) rose to the rank of Engineer-Colonel²⁹. Two of his sons chose to pursue a career in law. The elder, Pyotr, (1844–1909) who graduated from the prestigious School of Jurisprudence, became Privy Councillor and Chairman of the Mitava District Court, the younger Andrey (1854–1913) – Privy councillor and

²⁶ Н.А. Мурзанов, *Словарь русских сенаторов. 1711–1917 г.*, Санкт Петербург 2011, s. 411; A. Górak, *The Institution of Russian Imperial Governorship in Historical Retrospective According to P.P. Stremoukhov's Memoirs*, „Russian Studies in History” 2014, 53, 3, s. 84–94; A. Górak, J. Kozłowski, K. Latawiec, *Słownik biograficzny gubernatorów i wicegubernatorów w Królestwie Polskim (1867–1918)*, Lublin 2015, s. 418–425; A. Górak, K. Latawiec, *Russian Governors in the Kingdom of Poland (1867–1918)*, Lublin 2016, s. 220–225; А.Г. Горак, *Дело полковника С.Н. Мясоедова в воспоминаниях П.П. Стрёмухова*, в: *Первая мировая война и российская провинция. Материалы международной конференции*, red. А.С. Минаков, Орел 2014, s. 58–68.

²⁷ РГИА, f. 229, op. 10, d. 2835, k. 1–10, 17, The Case about the Service. Service Record for 1890.

²⁸ РГИА, f. 229, op. 10, d. 2837, The Case about the Service.

²⁹ РГИА, f. 200, op. 1, d. 8009, k. 1–8, Service Record for 1854.

Senator³⁰. The son of the first, Mikhail Petrovich Stremoukhov, after graduating from the School of Jurisprudence, served under the Prosecutor's supervision³¹.

Alexey Petrovich Stremoukhov (1823–1903) graduated from the Institute of The Corps of Communications Engineers in 1841. Privy councillor, Vice-Director of the Department of Roads and Water Communications. Chairman of the Temporary Department for the construction of the Saint Petersburg Sea canal³².

Another prominent representative of this branch was a descendant of Ivan Mikhailovich Stremoukhov in the 5th generation, the Actual Privy Councillor Pyotr Nikolaevich Stremoukhov (1823–1885)³³. The son of a large landowner, owner of 1722 souls of peasants in the Kursk and Oryol governorates, Lgovsky uyezd Marshal of nobility, Captain Nikolay Alekseyevich Stremoukhov from his marriage with Ekaterina Petrovna Denisyeva. Lyceum student, classmate of Count Dmitry Andreevich Tolstoy and philosopher and ideologist of pan-Slavism N. Ya. Danilevsky. In 1843, he joined the Asiatic Department and devoted to it his entire career. A major diplomat, Director of the Asiatic Department (1864–1875), in 1875 was Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs. Knight of the Order of St. Alexander Nevsky. Wife – Elizaveta Dmitrievna Yazykova. The eldest son, Nikolay, briefly served in the Asian Department, for a long time served as a zemstvo chief, then for several months was the Taurida Vice-Governor³⁴. The younger son Pyotr, an officer of the Lifeguard Hussar Regiment, after retiring was elected to the position of the Lgovsky uyezd Marshal of nobility. Chamberlain and Actual State Councillor, he was the last owner of the oldest estate of the Stremoukhovs – Fitizh, which was in the family since the beginning of the 17th century and burned by the peasants in the early 20th century³⁵.

The founder of the second branch of the family was the great-grandson of Alexey Volokita Stanislavovich Stremoukhov, the Voin Afanasievich Stremoukhov. His descendants were included into the genealogical books of the nobles of the Kursk and Kiev governorates³⁶. It included a participant in the Patriotic war of 1812, former Fligel-Adjutant and an officer of the Preobrazhensky Lifeguard Regiment, Major General Alexander

³⁰ Н.А. Мурзанов, *op. cit.*, s. 410.

³¹ РГИА, f. 1405, op. 529, d. 326, k. 55–56; op. 525, d. 2120, k. 1–5.

³² РГИА, f. 229, op. 10, d. 2836, The Case about the Service.

³³ РГИА, f. 1343, op. 29, d. 7257, k. 29, 41; *Русский биографический словарь, Словеский-Суворина*, s. 465.

³⁴ РГИА, f. 1343, op. 29, d. 7257, k. 43, Birth Certificate.

³⁵ *Ibidem*, k. 68, Birth Certificate.

³⁶ РГИА, f. 1343, op. 29, d. 7255, 7256, 7260, 7261, Cases of the Nobility.

Sergeevich Stremoukhov³⁷. His son Sergei (1826–1869) graduated in 1847 from the Page Corp and served as Cornet in the Lifeguard Horse Regiment. Colonel since 1859 and Squadron Commander since 1862. A brilliant career in the prestigious guards regiment was interrupted by a duel on the 15th of August, 1864, in which he killed his fellow soldier, Captain Klokachev. Stremoukhov was stripped of his orders and demoted to the rank of private with a transfer to the 13th Vladimir Uhlan Regiment, stationed in Novo-Minsk.

Two years later, he was granted a full pardon by the Emperor with the return of his ranks and orders, and in 1868 Stremoukhov was appointed Commander of the 14th Yamburg Uhlan Regiment in Pinchov. S. A. Stremoukhov was promoted to Major General in 1869 and had got the position of Assistant Commander of the 7th Cavalry Division and then suddenly died of typhus in Bialystok, where he was buried³⁸. This branch ended with Colonel Mikhail Stremoukhov, Commander of the 190th Hungarian Infantry Regiment stationed in Warsaw, who died on the 9th of August, 1909 in Essentuki³⁹.

The younger branch descended from Matvey Tretyak's son, Nikita Stremoukhov, who moved from the Volotsk lands ravaged by the Polish invasion to Novgorod-Seversky in the first half of the 17th century. Its members, who owned small estates, in most cases led a lifestyle close to that of a peasant, living within the Rylsky uyezd of the Kursk governorate, in the settlement of Stremoukhovka⁴⁰. The social level of this branch was so low in the second half of the 19th century that one of its members was exiled for horse theft in Siberia.

The Stremoukhovs were the typical representatives of the old nobility, who shared with other representatives of their class and their estate all social events of the past centuries. The main one was the impoverishment of the local nobility in the second half of the 19th century, caused by the inability of the old landowners to become effective owners in modern times, and also burdened by the agrarian crisis. According to general trends, some members of the family became part of the proletarianised bureaucracy, some became professional technical specialists, and finally some became, in fact, peasants. This process is clearly demonstrated by the history of the Nizhny Novgorod branch of the family, as an example

³⁷ Е.Л. Потемкин, *Биографический словарь. Высшие чины Российской Империи (22.10.1721–2.03.1917)*, т. 3, Р–Я, Москва 2017, с. 217.

³⁸ РГИА, ф. 1343, оп. 29, д. 7255, к. 10–14, Service Record.

³⁹ В.И. Чернопьятов, *Некрополь нескольких мест Кавказа. Оттиск из т. IV Летописи Историко-Родословного Общества в Москве за 1913 г.*, Москва 1913, с. 60.

⁴⁰ РГИА, ф. 1343, оп. 29, д. 7266, 7267, 24240, 24241, Cases of the Nobility.

of which we see the desire to preserve the chosen position through obtaining a privileged education and traditional service in the guard.

However, the old days are passing – although their origins allowed the brothers Nikolay and Pyotr Stremoukhov to study in the elite Page Corps, but limited funds forced them to enlist in the cheapest guards regiment of the capital's garrison, the latter's son Alexander, as well as his father, a graduate of the Page Corps, was determined to serve in an even less prestigious Lifeguard Sapper Battalion. The rest of the Stremouhovy, became poor, served in the army or on small posts of the provincial bureaucracy, or joined the ranks of the so-called not-serviced nobility – the lower strata of the nobility who have lost touch with the state apparatus.

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