

## РОЗДІЛ 4. ЕТНОПОЛІТОЛОГІЯ ТА ЕТНОДЕРЖАВОЗНАВСТВО

Cherednyk L.A.

### A military clerk as a layer of the Cossack elite

*In the article there has been explored the problem of military clerks layer formation as members of the military elite example of the clerks at the General Military office of Cossack Hetmanate in the second half of XVII–XVIII century. Besides it, there are shown the features of selection, training, competence, social status and place of clerks in the functioning of the General Military office as the highest administrative institution of Cossack Hetmanate.*

**Key words:** Cossack Hetmanate, general military office, administrative office, documentation, public and social life.

*У статті досліджується проблема становлення прошарку військових канцеляристів як представників військової еліти на прикладі діяльності канцеляристів генеральної військової канцелярії доби Гетьманства в другій половині XVII–XVIII ст. Окрім того, розглядаються особливості відбору, підготовки, компетенції, соціального статусу, а також місця канцеляристів у функціонуванні Генеральної військової*

*канцелярії як найвищої адміністративної установи Гетьманщини.*

**Ключові слова:** доба Гетьманства, генеральна військова канцелярія, адміністративна установа, документація, державне й суспільне життя.

*В статье исследуется проблема становления прослойки военных канцеляристов как прослойки военной элиты на примере канцеляристов генеральной войсковой канцелярии периода Гетманства во второй половине XVII–XVIII вв. Кроме того, рассматриваются особенности отбора, подготовки, компетенции, социального статуса, а также места канцеляристов в функционировании Генеральной военной канцелярии как высшего административного учреждения Гетманщины.*

**Ключевые слова:** период Гетманства, генеральная военная канцелярия, административное учреждение, документация, государственная и общественная жизнь.

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Cherednyk L.A.,  
Candidate of Philological Sciences,  
Associate Professor,  
Senior Lecturer at Department  
of Ukrainian Studies, Culture and  
Documentation  
Poltava National Technical Yuri  
Kondratyuk University

As it's known the head of Left-Bank Ukraine that included modern Chernihiv, Poltava, left bank of Kyiv and Cherkasy, northern regions of Dnipropetrovsk and Kyiv with surrounding land on the right bank [6, p. 942], in the first part of the 18th century was the hetman the power of whom spread on local governing. The highest body was the Combined Board where there were discussed important questions of internal and external policy, solved administrative, judicial and military businesses, elected or released hetmans.

During the national liberation war of the Ukrainians between 1648 and 1657 under the heading by Bohdan Khmelnytsky there was the General Military office being the highest administrative institution of Cossack Hetmanate that acted during 17th and 18th centuries.

Exactly with the General Military office the hetman implemented his governing; so its functions included not only military ruling, but also supervision for realizing administrative, judicial and financial businesses. So, exactly this body was a base for documentation of Cossack Hetmanate, from here they were referred to regimental and centesimal offices. During this time there were created new professions – a military clerk the appearing of whom was very essential then.

The aim of our article is the research of the military clerks' layer as the elite of the Cossack Army.

As the research shows the problem of the military clerks' layer raising and their functions in the General Military office has a long history founded by such famous scientists as M. Kostomarov ("Paul

Polubotok") and M. Hrushevsky ("Illustrated History of Ukraine").

Among modern scientists this issue is studied by O. Perehrest, I. Boyko, J. Dzeyko, O. Apanovych, N. Lemish, T. Zhukov, V. Gorobets, V. Panashenko, M. Zhuravel, and many others.

It's worth mentioning that now this question is also explored not only in history, but also in a new science – "Documents Science". Unfortunately, research in this sphere is few in number having been caused by many reasons. In modern Ukraine lots of scientists are interested in Documents Science development, including S. Kuleshov, V. Bezdrabko, Yu. Paleha, A. Zahoretska, O. Loza and others. Such complex probation calls for crucial interest being very actual.

It's known that the General Military office was in Hetman Residency that was at different time in Chyhyryn Gadyach, Baturin, Glukhov. According to the researchers (Yu. Paleha, N. Lemish, M. Zhuravel, V. Panashenko), due to the fact that during the Khmelnytsky Hetman repeated administrative division structure of the Cossack Army and corresponded with hierarchy of military units, the General Military office was also built by Cossack samples.

So long as through the General Military office the hetman controlled the state, so its functions included not only military ruling, but also supervision for realizing administrative, judicial and financial businesses. So, exactly this body was a base for documentation of Cossack Hetmanate, from here they were referred to regimental and centesimal offices.

It should be noted that during the Hetman there dramatically increased the total number of documents and their differentiation. In turn, this led to the need to prepare specially trained people who would not simply copy business papers, but they were able to make them. So, gradually among officials of the General Military office released a special layer, which was called “a military clerk”. They prepared documentation on various issues of public life.

The documents recorded mention of the so-called “a clerical hut” – a special type of paramilitary institution established in the General Military office that existed in Ukraine during the 16th and 18th centuries. The exact date of its foundation is unknown, but the first mention of it, as it's evidenced in the writings of the researcher M. Zhuravel, “appeared in “Diary” of General Podskarbi Yakov Markovich for 1748, who served as a clerk of Lubny colonel and later a general podskarbi” [4, p. 170]. The main purpose of an office hut was preparation of officials for state, administrative, judicial and financial bodies of Cossack Hetmanate. A hut was headed by a senior clerk and he subordinated to general secretary.

The most often the military clerks' layer formed with the children of cornets, captains, bunchukov mates. There were also people from the middle class, city officials, clergy.

As the modern historian V. Gorobets, “the number of clerks did not exceed several thousand people” [3, p. 254], but they were very educated people. Candidates for this position should be knowledgeable in grammar, rhetoric, philosophy, logic. All these sciences were studied in the middle class of rhetoric and upper class of philosophy at Kiev Academy. Those who had passed the entrance exams successfully led to the oath and made the list of military clerks. Future employees lived in a separate house-hut and were on full state support (however, among scientists there is another version that they learned at their own expense). They also had the right to absent themselves from service for indefinite time to their farms.

During training clerk studied foreign languages, law, desk (ie, financial and economic) science, military affairs, because in the future they had “not only lead paperwork, but also to participate in solving economic, administrative, diplomatic affairs” [5, p. 233].

The curriculum also included singing, music (playing the violin, the flute and the bass) and physical training. On Sundays and religious holidays hut clerks sang in the local church. Irresponsibility or some other fault of a listener in the office hut was punished “referring to the gun (the offender had to spend three hours on a military gun), which was considered a great dishonor” [12, p. 19].

According to V. Panashenko “teaching students was closely combined with practice, during which they were entrusted to conduct some businesses. Sometimes interns were assigned to the various commit-

tees that set out to explore businesses of hundreds and regiments” [7, p. 524].

After graduation, students had the possibility to hold senior government positions. They are directed not only to centesimal regimental or offices, but also to treasury, camp office, various commissions. According to the historian M. Zhuravel, “due to the high level of education of military clerks the Hetman government involved them in national affairs, the implementation of which required broad erudition and systematic knowledge, especially in the field of law” [5, p. 232]. For example, the most capable representatives of the office officials worked in the Codification commission of the 1728s and 1743s. In addition, the clerk took part in the election of nobility to the Commission for drafting a new Code in 1767. They were also among those who formulated demands to the king from the Cossack government [1, p. 96].

Generally military clerks had a wide range of duties they performed various assignments: they carried on different errands of the hetman, prepared drafts of official acts of general government (universals, letters, orders, instructions, letters, etc.). Typically, these documents were written under dictation of the hetman or general secretary. As the General Military Office was responsible for the early publication of all hetman's orders and universals among population, clerks had to spread them alone.

Scientists who studied business monuments of the period agree that all documents had different names and were clearly identified on the form. Among the official papers a significant role belonged to the “document of the General Office, regimental administration and justice centesimal governments, religious and cultural institutions of the city government” [2, p. 12]. These were mainly directive and regulatory acts, “універсаль”, “указь”, “листь”, “ордерь”, “інструкція”, “резолуція”, “приказь” and others [11, p. 205]. A little later there came constitution, the hetman's “articles” (international treaties), versatile, business documents of the town halls, magistrates hetmans' letters, diaries of the General Military office. It is worth mentioning that all these monuments, except legal, are also diplomatic in nature, and because of it we can learn about public affairs, international relations, the processes of state and personal lives of the period.

Since 1740 there was introduced the certified military clerks. Each applicant for this rank officials of the General Military office wrote “Tale” (autobiography), signed by “three or four witnesses who confirmed that they were “little Russians detailed” from where there were, who were the parents, etc.” [10, p. 65]. Then, the general secretary made “амстатъ” (characteristics) and on the basis of these documents a clerk was given a military rank.

It should be emphasized that the cohort of military clerks there came many famous people of that time:

a Cossack chronicler from Poltava Samiylo Velichko, Colonel of Hadiach regiment, a Cossack chronicles author Gregory Hrabianka, a personal secretary of B. Khmelnsky Samiylo Zorka, an unknown clerk - chronicler, who went down in history under the name Samovydet, a Ukrainian soldier, politician and official Mikhail Khanenko, Hetman Pavlo Teteria, political and public figures Philip Orlik and Ivan Skoropadsky.

The elimination of Hetman Institute in 1764 caused a restructuring of the entire political and administrative system in Left-Bank Ukraine, in particular, the General Military office ceased its existence. As the V. Panashenko writes "most clerks had to go to the civil service" [7, p. 260]. They played an important role in Documents Science development.

So, it is worth summarizing.

Despite the fact that studies of the General Military office work took its origins at ancient time, they need clearer investigation.

The epoch of Cossack Hetmanate is characterized with raising of central bodies of authority and jurisdiction. Exactly at this time there was the foundation of the military clerks institute who were prepared by the General Military office.

Not only did highly educated graduates get prestigious positions in the hundreds or regiments, but they also became state activists. That's why, we can state that the General Military office during 17th and 18th centuries prepared highly qualified governors for whom clerical work recreated in the profession.

In our opinion, in further research it's actual to study this issue complexly that can arise on the border of different sciences, including History and Historical Documents Science. Such developments will contribute deeper and broader reflection of this problem.

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