

PARISH CHRONICLES AS A HISTORICAL SOURCE ABOUT THE PEASANTS OF THE SMOLENSK PROVINCE

The article examines the tradition of writing parish chronicles in the Smolensk province in the 19th century and reveals its characteristic features, such as reliance on published examples, the combination of a formalized structure and authors' subjective assessment. Based on the analysis of the parish chronicles, published as historical and statistical descriptions of parishes, the image of a Smolensk peasant from the point of view of a parish priest is reconstructed. There were two stable images — a Great Russian and a Belarusian differing in personality, lifestyle and appearance, which were associated with ethnicity. The priests explained these differences by natural, socio-historical and cultural factors. In general, a peasant was seen as characterized by prudence, discretion and sympathy to the poor. At the same time, it was noted that superstitions, vices (such as drunkenness, foul language, theft), family breakdowns were common among them.

Keywords: *parish chronicles, ethnic identity, peasants, Smolensk province*

For Citation: Pashkova, I. V. 2022. Parish Chronicles as a Historical Source About the Peasants of the Smolensk Province. *Herald of Anthropology (Vestnik Antropologii)* 2: 90–99.

Author Info: **Pashkova, Irina Viktorovna** — Researcher, Federal State Budgetary Institution of Culture “Museum of the Smolensk Fortress” (214000 Smolensk, Bolshaya Sovetskaya street, 30/11). E-mail: azal14@mail.ru

References

- Dobren'kii, S.I. 2000. Tserkovno-prikhodskie letopisi Nikol'skogo uezda Vologodskoi gubernii vtoroi poloviny XIX — nachala XX veka [Church and parish chronicles of Nikolsky Uyezd, Vologda Province, the second half of the 19th — early 20th centuries]. In *Nikol'skaia starina: Istoricheskie i etnograficheskie ocherki* [Nikolskaya starina: Historical and ethnographic sketches]. edited by S. A. Tihomirov, 356–382. Vologda.
- Leont'eva, T.G. 2002. *Vera i progress: pravoslavnoe sel'skoe dukhovenstvo Rossii vo vtoroi polovine XIX — nachale XX vv.* [Faith and Progress: Orthodox Rural Clergy in Russia in the Second Half of the 19th and Early 20th Centuries]. M. 2002. https://azbyka.ru/otechnik/Istorija_Tserkvi/vera-i-progress-pravoslavnoe-selskoe-duhovenstvo-rossii-vo-vtoroj-polovine-19-nachale-20-vv/4
- Mironova, A.A. 2020. Narrativnost' tserkovno-prikhodskikh letopisei XIX v.: ob'ektivnoe i sub'ektivnoe [Narrativity of 19th-century parish chronicles: objective and subjective]. *Vestnik Cheliabinskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta*. 3: 81–86.