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**THE SONS OF STANISLAV SHCHENSNYI POTOTSKYI
FROM THE MARRIAGE WITH SOFIA WITT:
STROKES TO HISTORICAL PORTRAIT**

This scientific work deals with the little-known pages of the history of the magnate Pototskyi family, his contribution to the history and culture of Ukraine. The author's attempt to show historical portraits of the sons of Stanislaw Shchensnyi Pototskyi from the marriage with Sofia Witt is timely and unique, since a man is an element of any form of sociality, from the simplest communities to the modern civilizational and political supersystems. Therefore, the view of historical processes, of society, is not separated from the study of individuals and dynasties.

Keywords: *historical portrait, biography, Pyliava emblem, the Pototskyi family, Stanislaw Shchensnyi Pototskyi, Sofia Witt, Oleksandr Pototskyi, Mechyslaw Pototskyi, Boleslav Pototskyi.*

Today in Ukraine there is an objective and increasing demand for information regarding Polish culture, Polish reforms, Polish experience of democratic improvement of public administration, organization of social and political life.

Increasing interest of Ukrainian society not only in the Polish experience of reform, but also in the common Ukrainian-Polish history and culture, we see almost daily; not only in the professional environment but also at the everyday level of communication of ordinary citizens [2].

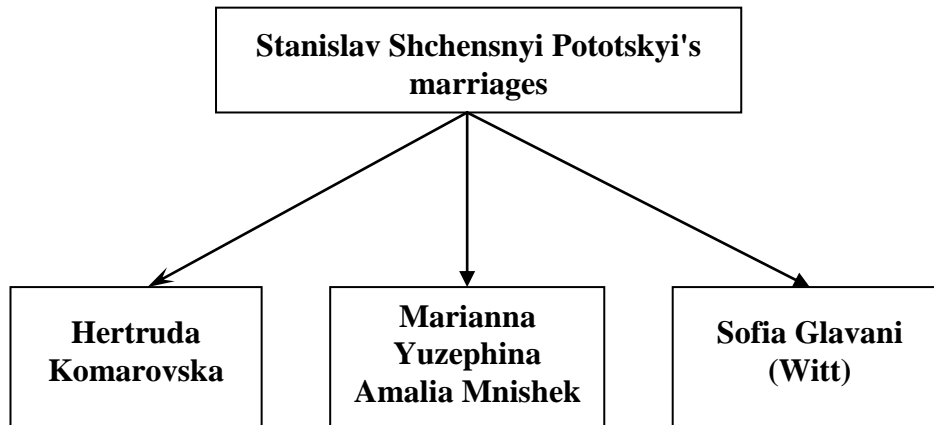
The purpose of this article is to show the pages of lives and activities of Stanislaw Shchensnyi Pototskyi's sons (from marriage with Sofia Glavani-Witt) – one of the most famous representatives of the Pototskyi family of the Pyliava emblem.

Fragmentary mentions about Oleksandr, Mechyslaw and Boleslav Pototskyi [4, 7, 11, 12, 14, 19, 20], in Polish, as well as in Ukrainian Historiography, also the lack of comprehensive scientific coverage of the history of the Pototskyi family prompted the author to this scientific exploration.

The ancient Pototskyi lineage gave birth to many glorious men who glorified (and sometimes apprehended) the greatness of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. In particular, in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, there were six different families, who wore the name Pototskyi (Pototskyi). These are the Pototskyi family of the Liubych emblem, Ostoy emblem, Pyliava emblem, Sreniava emblem, Sheliga emblem, Yanina emblem. The most famous is the Pototskyi family of the Pyliava emblem (on a blue background there are two silver crosses, one above the other and joined together) left a prominent mark in the history of Poland and Ukraine. There were emblems of Silvern and Golden Pyliava. The Pototskyi family of Tulchin (hetman) line belonged to the emblem of Silvern Pyliava [3, s. 224].

Stanislav Pototskyi Shchensnyi (Feliks) Pyliava Earl (1752–1805) – Russian governor, general of artillery, marshal of trade confederation. Among the variety of sources, dates of his birth, we take as a basis the date written on his grave – 1752. He was the only son of Kyiv governor Francisc Salezii and his second wife Ann Elzhbethy from the Pototskyi family.

Stanislav Shchensnyi Pototskyi was married three times.



Shchensnyi's father and mother were very strict, and his mother even despotic towards the son. The parents dreamed that their son's wife would be, if not a royal daughter, than at least the daughter of a wealthy duke or earl. Contrary to the dreams of his parents, Shchensnyi fell in love with Gertrude, the daughter of Count J. Komarovsky, who owned only a few villages.

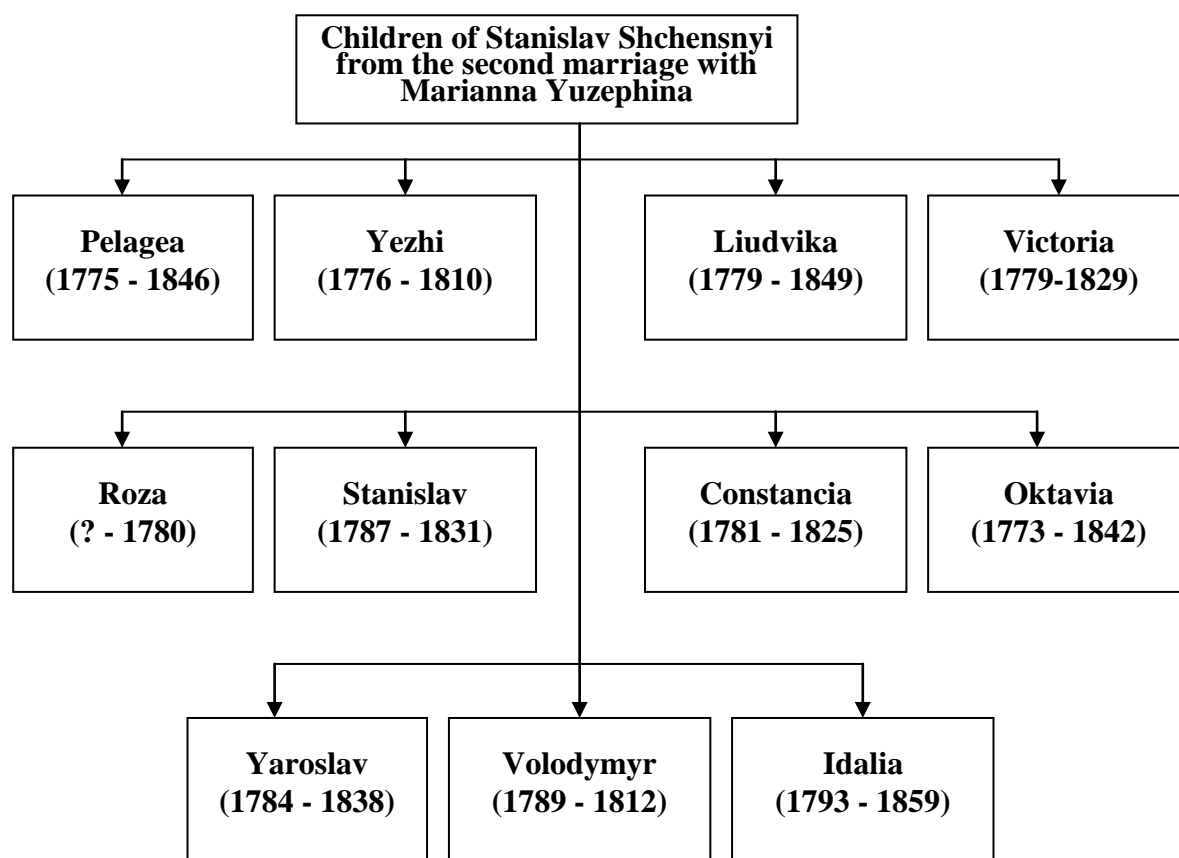
In 1770, the eighteen-year-old Earl Stanislav Pototskyi was touring his possessions near Krystynopyl (now Chervonohrad). The reason was not fun – he was delivering medicine, food and clothing to people with plague. But that's when he meets a charming seventeen-year-old blonde - blue-eyed Gertrude Komarovska. The young people fell in love with each other, the girl became pregnant, and Gertrude's father began to insist on their marriage. The newlyweds secretly entered marriage in Nestanychi, Lviv region, and left for their homes.

The scandal that broke out in the Pototskyi`s Khrystynopil estate was terrible. The parents threatened to deprive their son of inheritance. Stanislav broke down and signed a consent to divorce. On the same day, the Pototskyi sent Haiduks to the Komarowskyi`s estate in Novosilka village, who broke into Gertrude's house on February 13, 1771, grabbed the girl in what she was standing in, and forced her to go to Lviv. They were ordered to pass her to one of the monasteries. Between Kulikovo and Khrystynopyl the Haiduks` path was crossed by 300 peasant trucks. Gertrude began to cry for help, she was covered with pillows, under which she was strangled, so that she would not betray her kidnappers with a cry. The body was thrown into the Rata River.

In April 1772 Rata carried the body of a poor girl to the shore near the village of Konotopy. She was found by the Augustinian monks, they recognized the dead. Pototskyi's horrific crime angered the nobility: they were not accepted in any decent home. Stanislav was sent to Switzerland – away from sin. In early 1772, Stanislav`s mother Ann (Anna) Elzhbeth died suddenly in mysterious circumstances in the

village of Sokil, and in October, 11 of the same year his father died of a heart attack [10, s. 29]. Young Pototskyi returned from "exile" heir to a huge fortune—312 villages and towns, 1.5 thousand morgs of land (1 morg – 0.25 hectares) and 130 thousand males. He gives Komarovskiyi 12 villages and towns and 700,000 zł. The case with Gertrude was delayed [5].

Despite the scandal, young ladies liked young Pototskyi. He chooses maid of honor Marianne Yuzephina Amalia Mnishek – pretty blonde with blue eyes. She was a very talented person: she wrote stories, fables and epigrams, played the piano and was a good painter. In addition, her dowry is 110 villages and towns. Yuzephina was extremely passionate. She had lovers even before Pototskyi, but the groom did not heed it. However, on the slope of life of eleven children born by Yuzephina, he recognizes only three, as his relatives – daughters Pelagea and Ludwik and son Jerzy [10, s. 30].

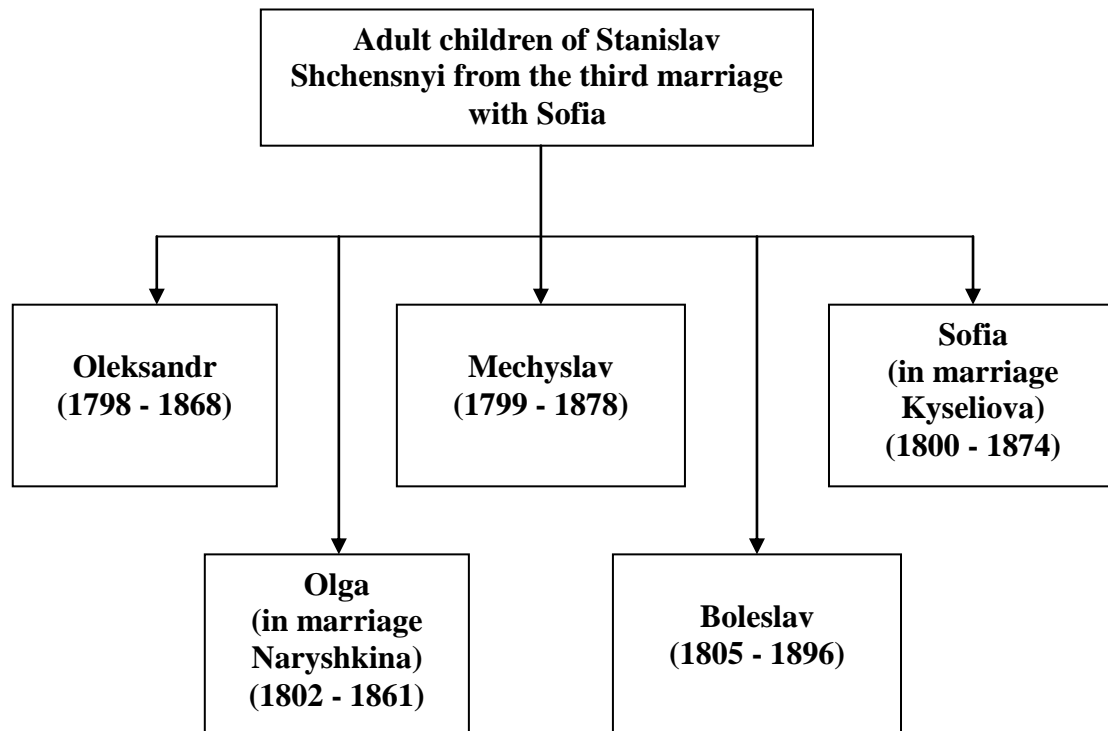


In May 1795 S. S. Pototskyi decided to divorce with Yuzephina and return to his estates. At the end of June, he sailed by ship from Lubeck to St. Petersburg, where at the court lived Yuzephina – the statue-lady of Catherine II, and Sofia Witt (who was already his lover) with Pototskyi's children Constantine (born in 1793) and Nicholas (born in 1794) went to Lviv to initiate divorce proceedings with Witt.

Shchensny's financial situation was poor. Pototskyi's wife and their governors brought the estate almost to ruin. Catherine II supported Yuzephina and so Pototskyi did not obtain approval of the divorce in Petersburg. In the early fall of 1795, he arrived in Uman, since Yuzephina from time to time visited Tulchin, hoping to keep her marriage with Shchensny. In February 1796 Sofia also came to Uman. In a short

while after that her divorce with Yu. Witt was drawn up. Pototskyi divorced his wife only after the death of Catherine II. Shchensny's wedding to Sofia took place in April, 17, 1798 in Tulchin with the participation of an Orthodox priest and a Catholic priest in the Orthodox Church, which after the accession of Right-Bank Ukraine to Russia in 1793 was replaced by the Uniate Church [15].

Sofia gave birth to eight children in her second marriage. The first three - Konstantin, Mykolushka and Helenka – died during the epidemic in Uman. They were buried in a park in Uman, under a mourning column – a monument in the form of a burning candle in front of the symbolic Gertrude grave.



We'll commit to the research of life and activity of sons of Stanislav Shchensnyi Pototskyi from the third marriage with Sofia.

Pototskyi Oleksandr (1798–1868) – Colonel of the Russian Guard, a participant of the November Uprising, an expat and philanthropist. He was born in May, 09, 1798 (three weeks after the parents' quiet marriage) in Tulchin, he was Shchensnyi's and Sofia's son, brother of Mechyslav, Boleslav, Sofia (in marriage Kyseliova) and Olga (in marriage Naryshkina).

After his father, he inherited the estates in Uman with Sofiiivka, to which was added the inheritance after the death of his mother (all in all about 30,000 people). Mykola Novosiltsev (Nowosilcow) was concerned about his education (recommended the mentors and teachers). Pototskyi had served in the Imperial Russian Guard, where he rose to the rank of colonel.

He participated in the Turkish war (1828–1829). In 1829 he retired from the army, began selling his estates, invested money in Vienna. He was interested in music (playing cello), was interested in literature and painting (he painted portraits himself). Adam Mickiewicz was his friend since Odessa times (1825), traveled with him to Italy, he arrived there in the summer 1830. According to Vladislav

Mickiewicz's message, Pototskyi then opened the poet's "account with his banker so that Mickiewicz could no longer worry about delaying transfers from his country". In Italy, Pototskyi was among artists, maintaining their dignity [16, s. 759].

At the beginning of the November revolt, Pototskyi was in Galicia, from where he was to leave for Vienna as soon as possible. In April 1831 he arrived in Berlin, from where he went to Poznan. Due to the persuasion of Sister Sofia Kiselev, he was preparing to participate in the revolt. In a letter to Yenich (from Berlin on May 2, 1831), he warned of "major changes in his life", stating that he would never return to St. Petersburg (unless he brought gendarmes to the Peter and Paul Fortress), which had a Polish name, though very tarnished. Arriving in Warsaw, Pototskyi was at the disposal of Skrzyneckiego, received a nominal rank on July 28, 1831 (rank of colonel).

He intended to set up a regiment at his own expense, which, however, was only able to form until the rebellion receded. Pototskyi's activity was limited to the financial assistance he provided to the Committee of the Russian Lands – he donated 20,000 zlotys for this purpose. Due to his poor health, he was retired on September 13, and was awarded the Virtuti Military Gold Cross on October 3. Subsequently Pototskyi reached Dresden via Prussia. There he received money from the annual income of the remaining estates. These estates were soon confiscated – a military colony (settlement) was created in the Uman estate, and Sofiyivka was renamed to Tsaritsyn Garden, a relative of P. Pototskyi. Kiselyov and his half-brother Jan Witt promised to ask him for royal amnesty and for the return of their estates, but Pototskyi preferred to remain - as he said - "poor but independent" and never return to the country again. He felt guilty about his father's behavior and deliberately emphasized his patriotism. The sums received from the earlier sales and recent income of the magnate fortune, invested in the securities, brought him a good income, about 80,000 zlotys annual rent; Pototsky, however, considered himself poor and lived sparingly, which sometimes bordered with oddities. However, he did not spare money for assistance for Polish emigrants. He supported individuals and invested large sums in the Scientific Assistance Union, the Polish Ladies' Association and the Tax Society. The amounts he donated amounted to 1000 francs, when the average deposits did not exceed 10 francs.

Pototskyi lived in Dresden (obtained Saxon citizenship), but spent most of each year in Rome, Naples and German resorts, meeting with the Polish aristocracy who lived in these cities. He befriended Sigmund Krasinski, who dedicated a poem to him, dated January 29, 1840. "to Oleksandr – Sigmund at the time of departure".

In the letters of Krasinski there is such a characteristic of Pototskyi: "kind, good-natured, rude in language, noble in deeds ... At first glance, he immediately called, from the second, better known, became the one who is loved and respected ..." a friendly relationship with Juliusz Slovacki, who joked in his letters about his affection for tall women. Pototskyi was known for his quirks, for example, he organized orchestras consisting of random street musicians and conducted them on the streets and palaces. He died on August 24, 1868 in Dresden and was buried there. He had no family [16, s. 760].

Meczyslaw Pototskyi, after the adoption of Orthodoxy Mykhailo (1799–1878) – a magnate, adventurer. Born September 12, 1799 in Tulchin, he was the second

son of Shchensny and his third wife Sofia, brother of Oleksandr, Sofia (married Kiselova) and Olga (married Naryshkina).

Polish historian Jerzy Loek assumes that Meczyslaw was not the son of Stanislav Szczęśny. The historian hypothesizes that during the trip of Stanislav and Sofia to Italy in 1798, Ms Pototskyi, thirty-nine, was raped by the Italian thief Caracoli, and that Caracoli was allegedly the father of Mecislav. Stanislav Shchensnyi Pototskyi recognized Mecislav as his blood son [6, s. 3–4].

He probably got parenting only at home. He began a series of major scandals at the end of his mother's life, accusing her of mismanagement and actions aimed at the detriment of heirs. He then seized her estate and evicted her from the palace in Tulchin [10]. It happened probably in the summer of 1820. Emperor Oleksandr I, at the mother's request, intended to send Pototskyi to Tobolsk, but he apologized to his mother and escaped deportation. In a will, his mother excluded him from participating in inheritance, but Pototskyi remained the master in Tulchin until he left the country.

There was a gossip that in 1826 Pototskyi organized a fire in the court archive in Bratislava to get rid of the compromised papers. He allegedly also had to send officials who had come to Tulchin for investigations, as well as his attorney, whom he recommended killing when he left the country after completing these tasks. The investigation lasted for a long time and by means of bribery Pototskyi managed to avoid shameful consequences. The next scandal was the abduction of the wife of Colonel (General) Meller Zakamelskij, born about 1828. Angered by Nikolai I, he recommended arresting the tycoon and sending him to Voronezh, from where Pototskyi returned after a year's stay there.

He was detained in St. Petersburg, where he allegedly negotiated the sale of Tulchin and tried to obtain a passport to travel abroad. In 1828–1830 he was entertained in Paris and Rome. Maybe he was investing abroad then. In Tulchin, he lived sparingly and, using his subjects, increased his wealth. On the recommendation of the emperor, he joined the guard as a cadet, but soon ended his service by fleeing and only through the intervention of the sisters: Olga Naryshkina, also Sofia Kiselova, escaped punishment.

Married (25 October 1825) to the Komaròw Dolphin, he had five children with her who died as a child. He began the divorce process in 1841, got divorced in 1843 and married in February 1844 with Emilia from the Świeykowskich family (1821–1894). Emilia after a year of cohabitation and after the birth of her son Nikolai (Pototskyi also had illegitimate children) fled to Kyiv under the tutelary wings of Governor General D. Bibikov. The reason for such an act was the extreme miserliness of the man and his rudeness and cruelty. The affair with his wife brought Pototskyi to the Kyiv Citadel, from which he also tried to break free through bribery. He was exiled to Saratov, where he was in 1845 - 1851. Wishing to get out of there, he went to Orthodoxy with his son Nicholas. However, he did not receive release, and he repeatedly failed to escape. He was again transferred to Voronezh, then to Viatka, and finally, as a result of another escape, he was put in Schlisselburg. He was released probably after the accession to the throne of Oleksandr II, and after 1856 received a passport to travel to France. He exported to France part of paintings, furniture, porcelain, glass, a collection of weapons, as well as a considerable number

of books. During the exile, the estate was managed by a commission that led it to ruin. At that time, this valuable Pototskyi archive was sold for scrap by a merchant from Odesa [1, s. 7].

Most of Pototskyi's adventures were exaggerated, mostly by his personal enemy, Wincent Bełżecki, but his life was actually scandalous. He was volcanic in nature, unbalanced, good and evil elements fought in him. After settling in Paris, he owned a huge herd that he had been collecting for many years, Pototskyi led, as opposed to the Tula period, a very holy life, and by playing happily on the exchange, he increased his fortune to 80 million francs.

He died on November 26, 1878 in Paris and was buried in Montrèsor; his wife, Emilia, is also buried here.

His only legitimate son, Nikolai Shchensny (1845–1921), who lived until the end of his life in France, inherited considerable wealth. In 1870 he married the Italian princess Emanuele Pignatelli de Cerchiara (1852–1930), who in 1882 - 1883 held a famous literary salon in Paris. The couple was childless. Before his death, Pototskyi sent about 40 million francs to distant relative Alfred Pototskyi of Łańcuta. Mykola Pototskyi died on June 3, 1921 and was buried in Montrèsor. Nicholas was honored with the French Legia Honorowa (Medal of Honor of the League) [18, s. 101].

Pototskyi Boleslaw (1805–1896) – landowner, founder of the gymnasium in Nemyriv [8]. Born in Tulchyn in March, he was the youngest son of Shchensny and his third wife Sofia, brother of Oleksandr, Mechislav, Sofia (married Kiselova) and Olga (married Naryshkina).

According to his mother's will, in June 1822, he received 8,000 peasants (including Bogopolsky estates) with the obligation to pay part of his debts, as well as to hand over 50,000 ducats to Jan Witt, his only blood brother. He also inherited half of Tulchin's estate with his brother Oleksandr and became the owner of Nemirov, appointed by the Sisters of Sofia and Olga [17, s. 800].

Pototsky continued the business of his mother, who in 1815 founded a four-grade school in Nemirov called Haisyn-Bratslavskaya, which existed until 1831. In June 1834, Pototsky resumed her activity, initially as a three- and then four-class school. It counted 450 students in its prime. In 1836, the county school was reformed from a seven- to eight-grade high-school. Sigmund Milkovsky and Anatoly Rollet finished this high school. In one of his estates, he also founded a four-grade school. Pototskyi not only invested significant sums on the maintenance of these schools, but also on scholarships. Nemyriv became the center of cultural life (F. Liszt performed there in 1848). The devastated estate, after the sale of Bogopol's estate to E. Stakelberg, was handed over to Pototskyi as his daughter's daughter Mary. In the fifties of the nineteenth century he moved to St. Petersburg. In 1856 he was one of the heralds who proclaimed the coronation of Oleksandr II, and at his court held a high, but without political significance, the position of great cellarer.

Married to Mary from the Saltykov family (1816–1845) Pototskyi had a daughter, Mary, who married Grigory Strohonov. Together with Maria, the illegitimate daughter of Pototskyi's wife, Sofia Idle, was raised, she was then married to Captain Vladislav Volodkovich [17, s. 801].

The problem explored in the article is one of the first attempts in modern historical science to consider, comprehend, summarize, and, finally, to objectively evaluate the life and activities of famous Polish magnates – Oleksandr, Meczyslaw and Boleslaw Pototskyi.

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Сини Станіслава Щенного Потоцького від шлюбу з Софією Вітт: штрихи до історичного портрету

У цій науковій статті мова йде про маловідомі сторінки історії магнатського роду Потоцьких, його внесок в історію та культуру України. Авторська спроба показати історичні портрети синів Станіслава Щенного Потоцького від шлюбу з Софією Вітт є своєчасною та унікальною, оскільки людина є елементом будь-якої форми соціальності, від найпростіших спільнот до сучасних цивілізаційних та політичних суперсистем. Тому погляд на історичні процеси, на суспільство не відокремлений від вивчення окремих особистостей та династій.

Ключові слова: історичний портрет, біографія, герб Пилява, рід Потоцьких, Станіслав Щенний Потоцький, Софія Вітт, Олександр Потоцький, Мечислав Потоцький, Болеслав Потоцький.

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Сыновья Станислава Щенного Потоцкого от брака с Софией Витт: штрихи к историческому портрету

В данной научной статье речь идет о малоизвестных страницах истории магнатского рода Потоцких, его вкладе в историю и культуру Украины. Авторская попытка показать исторические портреты сыновей Станислава Щенного Потоцкого от брака с Софией Витт является своевременной и уникальной, поскольку человек является элементом любой формы социальности, от самых простых сообществ до современных цивилизационных и политических суперсистем. Поэтому взгляд на исторические процессы, на общество не отделен от изучения отдельных личностей и династий.

Ключевые слова: исторический портрет, биография, герб Пилява, род Потоцких, Станислав Щенный Потоцкий, София Витт, Александр Потоцкий, Мечислав Потоцкий, Болеслав Потоцкий.