

Two careers of Sanok nobles in the 15th and 17th centuries: Petro Smolytskyy and Matviy-Stanislaw Ustrytskyy

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Both nobles – Petro Smolytskyy and Matviy-Stanislaw Ustrytskyy lived in different centuries, but both were born on Sanok land, had Ukrainian roots, came through similar typical for the nobles of these times stages of self-affirmation in noble society. Their successful life strategies are good examples how provincial nobility gained property and reached socio-political growth within their regional communities.

Key words – Sanok land, nobility, Petro Smolytskyy, Matviy-Stanislaw Ustrytskyy.

I. Introduction

Both nobles – Petro Smolytskyy and Matviy-Stanislaw Ustrytskyy lived in different centuries, but both were born on Sanok land, had Ukrainian roots, came through similar typical for the nobles of these times stages of self-affirmation in noble society. Their successful life strategies are good examples how provincial nobility gained property and reached socio-political growth within their regional communities.

The period between 15th and 17th centuries was a time when the nobility dominated in social and political life of Western Ukraine. During this period of time in order to implement a successful life strategy a noble should take a few important steps to be self-affirmed in the noble society – to expand the property complex, gain government post and gradually move up the career ladder, make a profitable marriage with representative of other wealthy and influential aristocratic families. This strategy we can follow on the example of two Ukrainian nobles – Petro Smolytskyy and Matviy-Stanislaw Ustrytskyy.

II. The activity of Petro Smolytskyy and Matviy-Stanislaw Ustrytskyy on Sanock land

Petro Smolytskyy († 1463) showed himself as an extremely successful noble in public and economic life. Being born in an underprivileged noble family, Smolytskyy achieved the status of one of the leaders of Sanok nobility.

It is not officially known in which village on Sanok land Peter Smolytskyy was born because he didn't own Smolnytsya that was located on the Sanok land. P. Dembkovskyy explained that this surname was used because once Smolytskyy kept Smolnytsya village [1, p. 17] in their possession. But in the first documented record about Smolytskyy is indicated a close relationship with the Pelnya village and with the local nobility of Pelvelskyy.

Unfortunately the sources don't provide with the answer how Petro Smolytskyy began his career because in early 1433 he was already known as Sanok Castellanus

(up to 1463), whose administration was one of the most important at that time the government hierarchy of the Sanok land. At the same time, during 1438-1442 he was also known as Sanok mayor [2, p. 123]. Getting senatorial government brought him to the forefront of the political state. In 1435 as Sanok Castellanus Petro Smolytskyy was a member of general sejm, where was concluded a settlement with the Teutonic Order [3, pp. 47-48; 4, p. 262]. Presumably, such a rapid career growth was patronaged and supported by Kmit - one of the strongest powers of the Polish Crown, who occupied vast holdings on the territory of Syanochchyna. This fact also indicates the common emblem of both families (Srenava).

Entrepreneurial ability and political situation helped Petro Smolytskyy to get rich very quickly. In a short time with the numerous purchases, he became a member of noble corporation of Sanok land and showed himself as one of the greatest and most influential local landowners.

In the late 20's of the 15th century Petro Smolytskyy became a landowner on Syanochchyna land. Here he was holding Tarhovyska and Lanciany royal estates and somewhat later he took Strahotylna land (in 1439) [5, pp. 29, 44, 52, 231, 435]. During his later life Petro Smolytskyy directed all his efforts to build property complex on Sanok land by numerous acquisitions. Thus due to acquisitions of new lands, Petro Smolytskyy became an owner of Zaryshyn town, Vyzdiv, Dulhe, Vitryliv, Kinske, Pelnya, Srohiv and Malynivka villages [5, pp. 85, 88, 188, 191, 147-148, 151, 169, 216, 371, 388].

Petro Smolytskyy didn't leave descendants after his death, so in the testament he decided to divide his property among close relatives who appeared to be his nephews [5, pp. 235, 435].

Ustrytskyy family is a striking example of noble family, whose members from one generation to another strengthen its financial position. Being an owner in a few generations of settlement in Prykarpattia village, the Ustrytskyy became very rich and powerful family. The Ustrytskyy's roots came from Transcarpathia. Ancestral place – Usztryky village which was located on the very border between Przemysl and Sanok lands.

One of the most prominent members of the family, and one of the most influential figure in public life of Przemysl and Sanok lands became Matviy-Stanislaw Ustrytskyy. At a young age he got a good education and took part in military campaigns. Subsequently, Matviy-Stanislaw started his political career and became a deputy mayor of Przemysl land. In early 1655 he became a deputy judge in Sanok land. Matviy-Stanislaw was a very important figure because he was elected as a leader of nobility congress in Vysshensky Sejm and in 1658, 1659, 1662, 1666, 1676 was elected as an ambassador of Sanok land in Sejm in Warsaw [6, pp. 30-35]. At that time, Matviy-Stanislaw is referred as a landowner in Girski Ustrzyky and Kryvtsi villages on Sanok land [7, pp. 856-857, 1322]. The main income of these mountain estates came from breeding large and small cattle.

An active social and political activity, authority over population on Sanok land allowed Matviy-Stanislaw Ustrytskyy to become a judge on Sanok land in 1669 [4, p. 288]. On that post he served not only as a judge but

also contributed to organize the defense of the state border from mountain robbers [6, pp. 30- 35]. On the peak of the governmental career he became Sanok castellan in 1682 and Ustrytsky occupied that post until his death in 1683 [4, p. 264].

Ustrytsky left three sons after his death and thanks to their father all of them took high positions: Wojciech Ustrytsky became Zhydachiv pichashiy and Sanok lovchyy (1677); Martyn – a nobleman of Jan III Sobieski and an ambassador of Sejm from Sanok land; Clement-Ignaty – Sanok pdkomoriy (1698 - 1712) and later he became a castellan (1712-1720) [6, pp. 37-38].

Conclusion

On the one hand Petro Solytsky and Matviy-Stanislav Ustrytsky lived in different historical time but on the other hand – both of them are examples of similar successful life strategies aimed at advancing through the government hierarchy and the simultaneous development of property complex..

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