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**NETWORK FORMATION OF THE PRUSSIAN CONSULAR OFFICES  
IN UKRAINIAN LANDS IN THE 19th CENTURY:  
CASE STUDY OF THE PORT CITY OF KERCH**

**Abstract.** *The purpose of the research is to study the history of the Prussian consular office and the Prussian consular representatives in the port city of Kerch, mainly, on the basis of the documents of Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz (Berlin). The research methodology is based on the search and comprehensive study of representative complexes of primarily sources. The scientific novelty: filling in the gap in the historiography regarding Kerch in the context of studying the network of foreign consular offices in the Ukrainian lands. The Conclusions. The Prussian consulate in Kerch was founded in 1845 on the initiative of an Englishman Edward Cattle. While the protection of the Prussian interests at the “Russian” territories of the Northern coast of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov region was previously the responsibility of the Prussian consul in Odesa, with the establishment of a consulate in Kerch, the latter began to take care of relevant issues in the lands adjacent to the Sea*

of Azov. However, this did not last for a long period of time. Cattley's departure from the region caused functioning closure of the consular office in Kerch until 1852, when Georg Nicolich was appointed a consular agent under the Prussian consul in Odesa. His activities in the city were interrupted because of the occupation of Kerch by Allied troops in 1855. At the beginning of 1857 Nicolich appealed to Berlin to dismiss him, which was due to the undermining of his financial situation as a result of the Crimean War, and the change in the quarantine rules in Kerch, which significantly reduced the income of the Prussian consular agent. Georg Nicolich soon died. His death marked the end of a short history of the Prussian consulate in Kerch. Official Berlin again drew attention to Kerch as the city where its consular office was to function, only 10 years later, and a vice-consul was soon appointed there. But he was a vice-consul of the North German Confederation, not Prussia.

**Key words:** consular office, consul, Kerch, Prussia, the Russian Empire.

## РОЗБУДОВА МЕРЕЖІ ПРУССЬКИХ КОНСУЛЬСЬКИХ ПРЕДСТАВНИЦТВ НА УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ЗЕМЛЯХ У XIX СТОЛІТТІ НА ПРИКЛАДІ МІСТА КЕРЧ

**Анотація.** Метою роботи є вивчення історії пруських консульського представництва і консульських представників у Керчі, спираючись в першу чергу на документи Секретного архіву Фундації пруської культурної спадщини (Берлін). **Методологія дослідження** базується на пошуку та всебічному вивченні репрезентативних комплексів періоджерсел. **Наукова новизна** полягає у заповненні наявної в історіографії лакуни щодо Керчі в контексті вивчення мережі іноземних консульських представництв на українських землях. **Висновки.** Прусське консульство в Керчі було засноване у 1845 р. за ініціативою англійця Едварда Кеттлі. Тоді як раніше захист пруських інтересів на підросійських територіях Північного Причорномор'я та Приазов'я знаходився в компетенції консула Пруссії в Одесі, із влаштуванням консульства в Керчі останнє стало опікуватись відповідними питаннями на землях, прилеглих до акваторії Азовського моря. Втім, це тривало не довго. З від'їздом Кеттлі з регіону діяльність консульського представництва в Керчі перервалась до 1852 р., коли на посаду консульського агента, підпорядкованого пруському консулу в Одесі, був призначений Георг Ніколич. Виконання ним обов'язків у місті перервалось в наслідок зайняття Керчі у 1855 р. союзницькими військами, а вже на початку 1857 р. Ніколич звернувся до Берліна з проханням про звільнення його з посади, що обумовлювалось як підривом його матеріального стану в наслідок Кримської війни, так і зміною карантинних правил у Керчі, які суттєво зменшували прибутки пруського консульського агента. Невдовзі Георг Ніколич помер, чим і завершилась вельми коротка історія існування консульського представництва Пруссії у Керчі. Офіційний Берлін знов звернув увагу на Керч як на місто, де мало діяти його консульське представництво, тільки через 10 років, і невдовзі туди був призначений віце-консул, але тепер вже не Пруссії, а Північнонімецького союзу.

**Ключові слова:** консульське представництво, консул, Керч, Пруссія, Російська імперія.

**The Problem Statement.** An important page in the history of the Ukrainian-German relations is the history of the consular missions of the German states, including the most powerful of them – Prussia, in the Ukrainian lands when they belonged to the Russian Empire. The formation of the Prussian consular network in the region began with the establishment of the consulate in Odesa in 1818, shortly after the city was granted a porto-franco. The next step in expanding this network was taken more than a quarter of a century later, when the issue of founding the Prussian consular office in Kerch was raised. Who was the initiator of such an expansion and how was it justified? When and in what status did the Prussian consular office in Kerch function and who represented the interests of Prussia there? What were the details of the biographies of these people? **The purpose** of this research is to answer these and a number of other questions, based, primarily, on the recently discovered and analyzed documents of the Secret Archives of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (Berlin).

**The Analysis of Recent Researches and Publications.** Since the publishing of the publication “The Black Sea Germans in the Life and Work of Odesa and the Region. 1803 – 2003; Bibliographic Index” (Samodurova, etc., 2003) the historiography of the issues analysis has significantly expanded. However, there was no breakthrough in the study of the history of the consular missions of the German states in general, nor in the history of the consuls of Prussia. Moreover, there is no study on the Prussian consulates or representation in Kerch. At the same time, during recent years there were published the monographs on consular missions of other states in the Ukrainian port cities during the period of the Russian Empire (Adadurov; Lyman, 2017 b, 2018 a, 2018 b, 2019, 2020). Liudmyla Vovchuk wrote the dissertation on “Activities of Foreign Consuls in the Black Sea-Azov Ports of the Russian Empire (the end of the XVIIIth – the beginning of the XXth century)” (in which, however, the Prussian consular office in Kerch was not mentioned) (Vovchuk, 2019). Therefore, there is a need to continue the study of the network of foreign consular missions in the Ukrainian lands and to fill in the gap in historiography regarding Kerch.

**The Basic Material Statement.** The issue of establishing the Prussian consular office in Kerch was raised at the end of 1844. It was initiated by Edward Cattley, who offered his candidacy for the post and soon came to office.

Born in St. Petersburg on April 17, 1816 (Descendants of Stevan Catlay) Edward Cattley belonged to the family, which gave the world a number of consuls and many more respectable merchants. It is significant that, representing the interests of Prussia and thus being associated with this Kingdom, Edward Cattley was a great exception in his family. After all, chronologically the first Prussian consul in Kerch was British.

Edward Cattley’s oldest direct ancestors are the great-great-great-great-great-grandfather Stephen Catlay (Stevan Catlay), who was born approximately in 1580, and his great-great-great-great-great-grandmother Elizabeth Jube (Elizabeth Jube, 1581 – 1657), who married in 1609 in Normanton (nowadays, a town in West Yorkshire in England).

The father of the Prussian consul Robert Cattley was born in York in 1787 (Descendants of Stevan Catlay) and moved to the Russian Empire at the beginning of the XIXth century, as a merchant and having some shares in the company “Catlay & Co.”. It is significant that Robert Cattley appeared on the first sheet of the Prussian consulate case in Kerch – on the sheet, which concerned the appointment procedure of Edward Cattley (GStA PK, Nr. 456, p. 1).

As a merchant, Edward Cattley served for some time in the city of his birth – the capital of the Russian Empire. In the German-language edition of 1835, his name appeared as a British citizen and valet (Illustrirter Kalender, p. 421). On April 20, 1843 in St. Petersburg, Edward Cattley married Clemence Elise Camp (Clemence Elise Camp). Clemence Elise was the same age as her husband – she was born on July 1, 1816. On October 2, 1844, Edward and Clemence Elise Cattley’s son, Edward Abbs Cattley, was born in the Crimea (Edward Abbs Cattley) (Descendants of Stevan Catlay)<sup>1</sup>.

On December 10, 1844, Edward Cattley himself sent a letter in French from Kerch addressed to August von Liebermann, the Royal Prussian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Russian court. In the letter E. Cattley wrote that during his stay in Kerch a number of Prussian captains, who came to this port, expressed a strong desire to establish a vice-consulate of their country. Therefore, Edward Cattley was honoured to nominate his

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<sup>1</sup> Later on, Edward Abbs, who was known in the Russian Empire as Dmitriy Dmitrievich, also became a merchant engaged in the grain and timber trade. The wife of Edward Abbs Cattley and, accordingly, the daughter-in-law of the Prussian consul in Kerch was the American – Louisa Harriett Ropes, the daughter of William Hooper Ropes, a merchant and head of the firm Ropes & Co, founded by his father, who became American ambassador to St. Petersburg in 1850.

candidacy for the post, justifying by other arguments the need to establish the Prussian vice-consulate in the city (GStA PK, Nr. 456, p. 2).

Edward Cattley's letter was received in St. Petersburg on December 18, and on December 28, 1844, Cattley's colleague, the Prussian Vice-Consul in St. Petersburg, Johann Bernhard Kempe, joined the case procedure. Johann Bernhard Kempe was also acquainted with Robert Cattley, Edward's father (J.V. Kempe), was also acquainted with Robert Cattley, Edward's father (GStA PK, Nr. 456, p. 2).

At that time there was only one Prussian consular office in the region – the consulate in Odesa, and its head was Johann Albrecht Bock, who had been in office since December 25, 1840. (GStA PK, Nr. 430, p. 47). Johann Albrecht Bock was also involved into establishing the consulate in Kerch and appointing a consular representative there (GStA PK, Nr. 456, pp. 8, 9, 11, 13). At a certain stage of the bureaucratic procedure, there was the idea of establishing a consulate in Kerch, not a vice-consulate. Finally, on July 12, 1845, the merchant Cattley was appointed a consular (GStA PK, Nr. 456, pp. 15, 16).

It was Edward Cattley in the status of the Prussian consul in Kerch, who appeared on the first sheet of the case “Consulate in Taganrog. Volume 2. 1845 – 1868” of Secret Archives of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation. In this French-language document, written in Kerch on December 10, 1845, there was described the specifics of navigation in the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait, related to the shallowness of this sea (GStA PK, Nr. 451). The correspondence with the Consul in Kerch, Edward Cattley, was mentioned in the document of the same case, written on February 14, 1848.

In the case “Consulate in Kerch, the Crimea, and Berdyansk” there were preserved the letters, written by Edward Cattley to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Prussia, dated of 1845 (GStA PK, Nr. 456, pp. 25–26) and of 1847 (GStA PK, Nr. 456, p. 30). The letters, like the above-mentioned letter of December 10, 1844, were written in French. In his correspondence to Berlin, E. Cattley wrote not only about Kerch but also about the ports of the Sea of Azov, caring for the Prussian trade interests not only in the city of his stay, but in Azov in general. In parallel with his position as the Prussian Consul in Kerch, Edward Cattley served as Swedish-Norwegian Vice Consul in the same city (Erik-Amburger-Datenbank).

After several years in Kerch, E. Cattley decided to move to another seaside town. On November 4, 1848, still putting signature as the Prussian consul in Kerch, in Berdyansk Edward Cattley wrote a French-language letter to Charles Trebbin, the Prussian consul in Odesa. In the letter Cattley, confirming receiving of Trebbin's letter of October 8, assured that, moving from Kerch to Berdyansk, he had no intention of “suspending his services to the Prussian government”. On the contrary, Cattley expressed the hope that after the change of residence, the benefits would only increase. It was about expanding the network of consular representatives in the region, including a vice-consul or consular agent. E. Cattley mentioned, that he had already written about this to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Ambassador of Prussia in St. Petersburg. E. Cattley hoped that the Prussian consul in Odesa would support such initiative (GStA PK, Nr. 456, p. 49).

In the middle of March of 1849, while staying still in Berdyansk, E. Cattley continued signing letters as the Prussian consul in Kerch (GStA PK, Nr. 456, pp. 53–54). As a Prussian consular representative in Kerch, his name and surname (Edward Cattley) were recorded in the lists of consular representatives of the German states abroad. The lists of consular representatives were published in Weimar in 1848 (Genealogisch-historisch-statistischer Almanach, S. 128) and in Leipzig in 1849 (Illustrierter Kalender, 1849, p. 110).

It is very interesting that in the database of Professor Eric Amburger (one of the descendants of Edward Cattley's relatives) "Foreigners in Pre-revolutionary Russia" ("Erik-Amburger-Datenbank. Ausländer im vorrevolutionären Russland") there is information that after holding the post of the Prussian consul in Kerch (which allegedly ended in 1848) Edward moved to Berdyansk, where he was a vice-consul of Great Britain in 1849 (Erik-Amburger-Datenbank). However, in the course of our research on the history of the British consuls in Berdyansk (Lyman, 2016a, 2016b, 2017a, 2017b, 2019) no evidence of this fact was found.

Edward did not stay for a long period of time in Berdyansk. In 1850, his 15-year-old cousin Stephen Thomas wrote in his diary that he had visited a country house, which was located at the distance of about 15 miles from St. Petersburg, a halfway to Peterhof. Stephen Thomas mentioned that "Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cattley had their country residence there (Uncle Robert's son). He is a consul and sometimes princes dine with him at his table" (Mahnke-Devlin, 2005, p. 96). The fact that at that time the former Prussian consul was no longer in office in Azov, but in the Baltic, is recorded in the Swedish history of the city of Vyborg (Ruuth, 1906, p. 820).

When Edward Cattley left the consular post in Kerch, his younger brother Charles Robert continued to work in the city, who was also the consular representative in Kerch, not Prussian, but British. Charles Cattley suspended his vice-consular service in Kerch due to the events of the Crimean War, because the Russian and British Empires were on different sides of the "barricades". The Russian authorities ordered Cattley to leave not only Kerch but also the territory of the Russian Empire. However, he returned to the Crimea in a few months as a soldier of the British-French troops. In September of 1854, Cattley came to office as a head of the British Department of Secret Intelligence ("Secret Intelligence Department") in the Crimea. It is logical that a long period of a consular service in Kerch provided excellent opportunities to Cattley to get the information on intelligence and plan operations in the eastern coast of the Crimea and Kerch itself. However, on July 10, 1855, Charles Cattley died of cholera. Queen Victoria was informed of Cattley's death. On July 30, 1855 Queen Victoria wrote that the commander in chief of the British troops in the Crimea, James Simpson, after the death of the head of military intelligence, must be in a state of great helplessness, having no sources for gathering information and not being able to maintain secret correspondence with the Tatars. 20 days before the Queen's letter, James Simpson himself wrote that the loss of "Mr. Calvert" (i.e., Charles Cattley) was irreparable and he had neither the chance nor the hope of finding a worthy successor of Cattley (Harris, 1993, pp. 94–129).

As for the former Prussian consul Edward Cattley, he took a very important place in the British community of the capital of the Russian Empire, becoming an agent of the London Russian Company in St. Petersburg and treasurer of the "British Factory" (Karttunen, P. 266). Namely, the treasurer, who was elected annually by members of the "British Factory", was considered the most important "official" person of the British community in St. Petersburg (Karttunen, 2004, p. 63).

In 1881, after about 16 years of work, Edward gave up working for the Russian company (Mahnke-Devlin, 2005, p. 104). He retired and left the Russian Empire, moved to England (Mahnke-Devlin, 2005, p. 96). The former Prussian consul in Kerch, Edward Cattley, ended his life not in the Prussian lands, but in Bournemouth, England. On March 15, 1895 Edward Cattley died there (Descendants of Stevan Catlay; Lyman, *Forecoming*).

Cattley's successor as a consul in Kerch was Georg Nicolich. In the papers of the Prussian consulate in Kerch, Georg Nicolich is first mentioned on March 25 (April 7), 1848, in the letter to Berlin from Odesa, written by the Prussian vice-consul in that city, Charles Trebbin (GStA PK, Nr. 456, pp. 34–35). He was also mentioned in Trebbin's letter to Berlin dated on October 1 (13) of the same year (GStA PK, Nr. 456, p. 38).

Nicolich's name (Nicolich, Nikolich) was mentioned later in the correspondence on Edward Cattley's intention to change his place of residence and the initiative to change the network of the Prussian consular representatives in the region. In various documents, Nicolich's name was mentioned as Johann or Georg. At some stage it was specified that the candidacy of the merchant Nicolich was being considered for the position of the Prussian consular agent in Kerch (GStA PK, Nr. 456, p. 56).

On May 20 (June 1), 1852, two documents were written in Odesa, in which the surname Nicolich was mentioned. The original of one of these documents, written in French, was sent to Georg Nicolich in Kerch, a copy of which was enclosed into the consulate's file. The document was a message from the recently appointed Prussian consul in Odesa, John Menger, stating that in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin, the Prussian consul in Odesa offered Georg Nicolich the position of a consular agent in Kerch, and he accepted this offer. John Menger informed the Prussian Embassy in St. Petersburg about such offer and consent. The Prussian Embassy in St. Petersburg was to inform the local authorities about the appointment. In addition, in the same letter, John Menger wrote to Nicolich that he would receive a seal to be used in performing his functions, as well as the documents, which he should be guided by in his activities, namely: Consular Regulations of September 18, 1796; Tariff of consular fees, determined by § XII of the Consular Regulations of 1796 (as amended); Decrees of January 30, 1815, August 23, 1816, June 15, 1830, April 24, 1834, April 25, 1834, January 6, 1837, 5 February 1839, March 9, 1839, November 6, 1840, June 8, 1841, August 16, 1844, September 23, 1844, April 16, 1845; Appendix to legislation directly related to the duties of a consular agent. John Menger instructed Nicolich on the specifics of the rules for collecting consular fees and performing other functions entrusted to the consular agent in Kerch (GStA PK, Nr. 456, p. 84).

In the case of "The Consulate in Kerch, in the Crimea, and in Berdyansk" of the Secret Archives of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, the next sheet after the documents on Nicolich's appointment is dated of August 17, 1855 (GStA PK, Nr. 456, p. 96) i.e., it was written almost 3 years after the previous one, during the climax of the Crimean War, when Kerch had been occupied by Allied troops for several months.

John Menger's letter of August 17, 1855, was a reaction to a written address received from the Prussian consular agent in Kerch, Georg Nicolich, which he had written in French on July 16 (28), 1855, in Kharkiv. This was the place where Nicolich temporarily moved because of the war. In his letter, Georg Nicolich first of all apologized for not informing John Menger about his move as a refugee to Kharkiv, nor about the events that took place in Kerch during the occupation. Nicolich wrote that after the departure of the Russian state institutions from Kerch, the city did not resist, and the British acted "like pirates or flibusters, not as a civilized and respected nation". Nicolich described the misery of the city's residents and the sad fate of Kerch real estate, noting that Kerch was in ruins. As for himself, Nicolich said that he and his family had to leave the city, but managed to take the archives of the Prussian consular agency entrusted to him (GStA PK, Nr. 456, pp. 97–98).

John Menger informed the leadership in Berlin about this letter, and already in the document written on September 5, 1855, there was the issue of Nicolich's status not as the consular agent, but the vice-consul of Prussia (GStA PK, Nr. 456, p. 102). In this status his surname appeared in the documents of official Berlin on November 11 and 20 of the same year (GStA PK, Nr. 456, pp. 104, 105).

The next document in the case "Consulate in Kerch, the Crimea, and Berdyansk" dates back to February 6 (18), 1857 (GStA PK, Nr. 456, p. 106). In this letter from John Menger to

Berlin, Nicolich was again mentioned as a Prussian consular agent in Kerch. And this time, as well as in 1855, the appearance of a letter from the Prussian consul in Odesa after a long break was caused by a previous appeal to him by Georg Nicolich.

In his, again, the French-language letter to John Menger, written in Kerch on January 29 (February 10), 1857, Nicolich wrote about the circumstances, which left no doubt that after returning home from Kharkiv he was already well acquainted with the situation in Kerch after the withdrawal of the Allied troops. Georg Nicolich noted that this time the captains of ships going from abroad to the ports of the Sea of Azov did not have to call on the port city of Kerch directly, and could certify their documents obtained at the consulate of the Russian Empire in Constantinople, in quarantine. The situation was different from the one when Nicolich became a consular agent in Kerch and when the Prussian navigation could offer him benefits that compensated the work he did.

Nicolich wrote that his personal circumstances had also changed significantly since he had agreed to take up the post of the Prussian consular agent. Nicolich's financial situation was severely undermined by the war, which had just ended. Therefore, he wrote that, unfortunately, he no longer found the opportunity to continue serving as a consular agent (GStA PK, Nr. 456, p. 107).

However, the circumstances changed not only in Nicolich's affairs. The end of the Crimean War opened a new page in the history of consulates throughout the Azov-Black Sea region, including the history of the Prussian consular networks. On March 12 and 28, 1857, the documents were made in Berlin concerning possible changes not only in Kerch, but also in Berdyansk, where a Prussian consular agent could also be appointed (GStA PK, Nr. 456, pp. 108, 109).

Shortly afterwards, on April 7, 1858, the Governor-General of Novorossiysk and Bessarabia, on the basis of a note from the Austrian Consul General in Odesa, informed the Kerch-Yenikalsky Mayor that in connection with the death of Georg Nicolich, the duties of the Austrian Vice-Consul in Kerch were entrusted to the Belgian Consul in Kerch, Tito Nazzolini (Ot mestnogo nachalstva, 1858, p. 61).

The confusion with the surname of Nicolich, which is mentioned in the documents of the case "Consulate in Kerch, Crimea and Berdyansk", is explained by the fact that in Kerch the consular representatives of several countries were two brothers, Georg and Johann. After the death of Georg Nicolich in the consular building in Kerch in 1859, Johann (Ivan Mykolayovych) Nicolich remained, who had the status of Neapolitan vice-consul.

It is intriguing that as a consular agent of Prussia in Kerch, Georg Nicolich (Georges Nikolitch) is mentioned in the publication "Diplomatic Handbook of the Russian Empire" during 1861 – 1868. However, in a very significant way, in contrast to the edition compiled in St. Petersburg, Berlin editions of this period do not mention either Georg Nicolich or the existence of the Prussian consular office in Kerch, in general. For instance, they are not in the "Lists of the Prussian consular officers employed abroad", published in the "Preussisches Handelsarchiv" in 1861 – 1867. After 1861 there was recorded only the presence of the Consulate General of Prussia in Odesa and its subordinate consulate in Berdyansk and vice-consulate in Taganrog. We have reason to believe that St. Petersburg edition provided incorrect information, and in reality the Prussian consular representative in Kerch during the 1860s was absent. This statement is evidenced by the fact that on March 11 (23) 1861, Consul Ernst Mass sent the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Prussia a description of the archives of the Prussian Consulate in Odesa, which included the documents (magazines, protocols, etc.) of the Prussian consular agent in Kerch during 1852 – 1856 (GStA PK, Nr. 431).

On (13) June 1867, Kerch negotiator, Woldemar Roya, wrote the French-language letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Prussia, Bismark. In the letter he wrote that living for several years in Kerch, he occasionally saw the Prussian subjects additionally suffered from the fact that, not having their consul in Kerch, not knowing either the language or the laws of the country, they did not find protection from their government. Roya noted that due to the nature of his activities, he communicated daily with the captains of different countries, having to protect them as best he could. For this reason, Roya wrote that he requested the Prussian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to grant him consular powers in Kerch. Roya further noted that if the Minister wished to verify his reputation, such information could be provided by the consulates of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and the United Kingdom in Kerch (GStA PK, Nr. 456, p. 190).

On the same day, Woldemar Roya wrote the French-language letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Prussia requesting his appointment as a consul and assuring him that his position allowed him to defend the Prussian interests in the best possible way (GStA PK, Nr. 456, p. 191).

In Berlin, both letters were registered on July 8. Already on July 11, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Prussia addressed this issue to Consul General in Odesa, Ernst Mass (GStA PK, Nr. 456, p. 192). The response of the Consulate General in Odesa was on 14 (26) August (GStA PK, Nr. 456, p. 193). However, no document on the continuation of Woldemar Roy's petition in the case of the Consulate in Kerch, the Crimea and Berdyansk of the Secret Archives of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation had been found. Other sources give grounds to claim that Roya did not take the desired position of the Prussian consul in Kerch (Lyman, *Forecoming*). Soon the Prussian consular offices disappeared in other cities, giving way to the newly created North German Union.

**The Conclusions and Prospects of Further Researches.** Thus, the Prussian consulate in Kerch was founded in 1845 on the initiative of the Englishman, Edward Cattley, born in the Russian Empire, whose merchant family occupied important positions in St. Petersburg, and at that time his brother was the Vice-Consul of Great Britain in Kerch. Whereas the protection of the Prussian interests in the sub-Russian territories of the Northern Black Sea and the Azov Sea was previously the responsibility of the Prussian Consul in Odesa, with the establishment of a consulate in Kerch, the latter began to take care of relevant issues in the lands adjacent to the waters of the Sea of Azov. However, this did not last for a long period of time. At the end of 1848, Consul Edward Cattley, continuing to be the Prussian consul in Kerch, moved to Berdyansk. In 1850 he left the region. The functioning of the consular mission in Kerch was interrupted in 1852, when he became a consular agent subordinate to the Prussian consul in Odesa, Georg Nicolich, a representative of a respectable Kerch merchant family, was appointed. His service duty performing was interrupted as a result of the occupation of Kerch in 1855 by the Allied troops. At the beginning of 1857, Nicolich appealed to Berlin to dismiss him from office, which was due to the undermining of his financial situation as a result of the Crimean War, and by changing the quarantine rules in Kerch, which significantly reduced the income of the Prussian consular agent. Soon Georg Nicolich died, which ended a very short history of the existence of the Prussian consular office in Kerch. Official Berlin drew attention to Kerch again as the city where its consular office was to function, only 10 years later. There was appointed a vice-consul, but no longer Prussian, but the representative of the North German Union. Further prospect of studying this issue is to create a generalized analysis on the history of the Prussian consuls and consuls of the North German Union in southern Ukraine. We work on this issue currently.

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