

# Orenburg Neplyuev Military School: Contribution to Formation of Regional Science

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## Abstract

In 2014, 190 years have passed since the establishment of the Orenburg Neplyuev Military School, renamed later in the Cadet Corps. In the middle of the XIX and the beginning of XX century, several military schools worked in Orenburg. Their presence in the city is quite justified, as since the founding of Orenburg it was a significant military and educational center of the region. The purpose of this study was to identify and collect data on the scientific activities of faculty members and staff of one of the oldest educational institutions in the region and evaluating the scientific merit of their work. It is known that members of the Orenburg Neplyuev Cadet Corps not only performed and contributed to the educational process, but some of them also were engaged in research. This work was not mandatory; it was often carried out on own initiative or with the agreement to assume the additional overhead. But at the same time it was not been closed within the boundaries of personal research interests of specific people. During the whole XIX and at the beginning of the XX centuries, even early, the Orenburg Province and adjacent areas remained unexplored territory. Therefore, the work of researchers and enthusiasts had enormous scientific and social value. Since the mid-XIX century, the Orenburg researchers were able to participate in the work of several local scientific societies: the Orenburg Scientific Archive Commission, the Orenburg Department of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society, the Orenburg Department of the Kazan Society of military health knowledge adherents, etc. The article presents the results of a study on the participation and the scientific contribution of employees of the Orenburg Neplyuev Cadet Corps in the formation of Regional Science. On the basis of collected and presented in the article submissions it can be stated that, in speaking about the scientific work in this institution, it should be assessed not so much a collective as a personal contribution.

**Keywords:** Orenburg Neplyuev cadet corps, history of Orenburg science, military researchers

## 1. Introduction

Orenburg Neplyuev military school was established in 1824 (opened in January 1825). The School changed its name over the years of its existence a few times: in 1844-1867 I was named Orenburg Neplyuev Cadet Corps, in 1867-1882-Orenburg Neplyuev Military School, in 1882-1919 it was renamed in Orenburg Neplyuev Cadet Corps). In 1830 it was founded in the Corps a first museum of the Orenburg region containing valuable collections of ethnography, natural history, numismatics, etc.

The institution received its name in honor of the first Governor of Orenburg-Ivan Ivanovich Neplyuev (1693-1773), who was also the founder of the first school in the province, which was called "Tatar" (Orenburg, 1896).

The main purpose of creating a military school was, as stated in the documents, "contribute to the rapprochement of Asians with Russian, inspire them the love and trust of the Russian government and deliver to this remote province enlightened officials in different parts of the military and civil service" (Semenov, 2010). This is not discordant with other educational institutions created on the eastern periphery (Egamberdiyev & Ospanova, 2014). A scientific activity of professors, and especially teachers and doctors, not only was not mandatory, but it was not expected and was not included in the list of duties. It was carried out by or on their own initiative or on the proposal of the Director of the institution to assume the additional overhead. Usually, researches were conducted on pure enthusiasm and were not paid.

At the present time, there is a considerable body of literature on the history of the Orenburg Nepliyuev Cadet Corps (ONKK). They began writing about him in the late XIX-early XX century. Separate works and articles are known (Belavin, 1891; Miturich, 1870; Miturich, 1913; Orenburgsky, 1896; Tsyplyaev, 1913; etc.). All they contain the information from the Corps' creation history, the list of the subjects taught, the quantitative composition of the students, schedule and so on. Modern textbooks also pay attention to this institution (Anosov, 2003; Semenov, 2010; Shilov, 1994). But they, like their predecessors, focused mainly on the problems of education. The scientific activity of teachers and other staff of ONKK remained out of sight of scientists. There is only a mention in the newspaper article that Anichkov conducted meteorological observations in the Orenburg Nepliyuev Cadet Corps (Koncheva, 2011).

## 2. Materials and Methods

This study is based on analysis of data collected by the author from archival documents and published sources, mainly in the XIX century about the scientific work of faculty members of the Orenburg Nepliyuev Cadet Corps. In this paper, based on the principle of localization, it was lawfully the use of heuristic methods (bibliographic and archival) required at the stage of searching for information. By viewing of archival inventories it was originally identified a mass of documents that may contain useful information. Part of reviewed sources, unfortunately, did not produce the desired results. In others it has managed to find information, not previously used by researchers. From historical methods it was used historical genetic allowing show patterns of development of historical events, and to identify the relation of the personal factor in the historical development and objective factors.

Materials for the study were documents of the Russian State Military Historical Archive and the State budget institution "State Archive of the Orenburg region", as well as the Department of written sources, the State Historical Museum, bringing together a collection of documents (Dianina, 2010). To identify scientific interests of researchers and their publications the works of local scientific societies were used.

## 3. Results

The study covers the period since 1843 until 1914. It was a time of transition from individual to collective research of finding work in the local scientific associations. Although, as the analysis showed, the personal factor remained predominant.

At the moment we can assume that the first stage of evaluation of the contribution of faculty members of the Orenburg Nepliyuev Cadet Corps in the formation of regional science the mission is accomplished. Namely, it is determined that this topic is developed neither by modern historians nor their predecessors; it is identified a preliminary list of enthusiastic scientists working in this institution; familiar become the main themes of their research interests; areas for future work on the topic were identified.

In our view, this trend - the contribution of staff of military educational institutions in the formation of regional science is promising because a preliminary analysis showed that military investigators had huge potential. Many of them were well educated, lived a long time in the region and knew its specificity, had an active social position, expressed in recognizing the importance of ongoing research to explore the region, which further contributed to its economic and social development.

## 4. Discussion

Since the 1840s, the Corps systematically conducted meteorological observations. They were began on September 1, 1843 by the sub-lieutenant (at that moment) A.M. Anichkov "by oral order" of the Director of the School, Colonel I. M. Markov (?-1848) (Russian State Military Historical Archive. F. 1754. Op. 1. D. 62. L. 1).

The biography of Alexander Mikhailovich Anichkov (1818-?) was largely typical for the School's professor of the time. According to a track list compiled on January 1, 1865, he descended from the nobility of the Orenburg province. Was educated in the Orenburg Nepliyuev Military School. Entered in Orenburg line battalion number 2 as sub-ensigns (10.03.1835), for excellence in service promoted to ensign (07.04.1836). Participated in the Khiva expedition of 1839-1840. In January 1841 he was attached to the Orenburg Military School, in 1842, 1843, 1854 and 1856 taught history and geography in the School. In 1844, already a lieutenant, he was finally transferred to Orenburg Nepliyuev Cadet Corps and appointed as librarian and curator with squadron officer charge. In 1851 he received the rank of staff captain, and in 1855-captain. Had orders and insignia: orders of St Stanislav of the II degree with the imperial crown, St. Stanislav of the II, degree and St. Ann of the II degree; bronze medal at the Vladimir ribbon in memory of the war of 1853-1856, insignia for the 20-year unblemished service (Russian State Military Historical Archive, 62).

Equipment that had to use A. M. Anichkov for meteorological observations was the minimum necessary, and

consisted of a barometer, two thermometers and shadow clock, further, with the permission of the Director and at the expense of the educational institution, A. M. Anichkov ordered from local craftsmen cubic foot to measure how much rain fell and the wind vane with two octagons, meaning the chief of the rumba according to figures compiled by him (Russian State Military Historical Archive, D. 62). Almost two years later, on May 29, 1845, into the headquarters of military schools and the Imperial Academy of Sciences the Director of the School Colonel I.M. Markov sent a report compiled by Lieutenant A. M. Anichkov "Meteorological observations in Orenburg for the past 1844" (Russian State Military Historical Archive, 62). They returned from the Academy of Sciences with a note A. T. Kupffer (1799-1865), Director of magnetic observatories of Mining agencies, academician, containing recommendations and multiple instances of table forms for entering observations (Russian State Military Historical Archive, 62). "As concerns the observations of Lieutenant Anichkova-wrote A. T. Kupfer, they represent an important addition to our knowledge about the climate inside Russia, the more that we do not yet have complete observations of this area. Orenburg climate differs from the climate of Western Europe is a big difference between summer and winter temperatures, in addition, the average annual temperature are very low, and why physicists assumed that the Orenburg lies on high ground, which, incidentally, barometric observations of Anichkov refute". Further, the scientist advises which tools needs A. M. Anichkov to continue observations (Russian State Military Historical Archive, 62). Lieutenant Anichkov earned honorific mention on behalf of the Superior of military schools (Russian State Military Historical Archive, 62).

In 1845, A. T. Kupffer drew up a note "On the establishment of meteorological observations at military schools", where he called six military schools in which it would be particularly desirable to organize meteorological observations: the institutions of Orenburg, Siberian, Ural, Novgorod, Brest, Poltava, Polotsk and Voronezh. And, as he wrote, "the first three points of finding them in the east, are very significant in a purely meteorological terms, the last is able to present to science important data in the application of the science of meteorology for agriculture" (Russian State Military Historical Archive, 62).

A. M. Anichkov in 1845 was distinguished by the Imperial Highness for studies carried out and in 1855 granted a diamond ring till 140 silver rubles for delivering meteorological observations in the main physical observatory within a few years" (Russian State Military Historical Archive, 149).

Twenty years later, after leaving of A. M. Anichkov from Orenburg, meteorological studies was continued by A. I. Ovodov (?-1901), Collegiate secretary, while performing affairs assistant secretary of the 4th Military School and Orenburg Nelyuev Military School (Reference book, 1868). He believed that the surveillance conducted by his predecessor "raised Orenburg, in meteorological terms, almost to the level of" meteorological observatories of the Mining Department institutions, thoroughly arranged for a few years before in a variety of widely separated points of the Russian Empire (Ovodov, 1870).

The material accumulated over these years, served as the basis of labor of A. I. Ovodov, who focused on the researches of directions and strength of the wind (Ovodov, 1870). Subsequently, two of his articles, "The Direction and Strength of the Wind in Orenburg made during the Observations of 1848-1867" and "Magnetic Observations made during the Campaign of Russian Troops in Khiva in 1873" (Ovodov, 1876) were awarded by silver medals of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society.

In 1871, A. I. Ovodov also left Orenburg. Search for wanting to continue the meteorological observations, painstaking work and also unpaid, took some time (State Budget Institution "State Archive of the Orenburg region"). But soon, the progymnasium educator Mitrofan Stepanovich Chernyshev (State Budget Institution "State Archive of the Orenburg region") decided to continue research on the condition that he will be given all the necessary appliances, as he had not own facilities for necessary acquisitions, and that the observations will be conducted in the Military School. We do not have until his biographical data.

Two years later, the Orenburg governor-general N. A. Kryzhanovsky asked the military governor and chairman of the Orenburg Department of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society (OO IGRO) L. F. Bellyuzek if he finds it possible to allocate any amount of money from OO IGRO's finances to pay for meteorological research, to ensure continuity, reliability and serviceability observations (State Budget Institution "State Archive of the Orenburg region"). The basis for promotion could serve and the fact that works were performed, according to Director of the Main Physical Observatory G.I. Wild (1833-1902), so conscientiously that he personally asked the Orenburg governor to express him Chernyshev. "As concerns the necessity of these observations in the area, N. A. Kryzhanovsky wrote to L. F. Ballyuzek, the Director of the Main Observatory, recognizing their importance for science, expresses by the way in a comment addressed to me that they are the basis for judgments about the steppe climate-continental country with all its sharp contrast to the climate of Western Europe and even in Western Russia. Extreme cold in winter, summer heat, unusually rapid transitions from winter to spring and

summer from summer to winter in the fall, the extreme dryness of the air especially in the summer, are a lot of interesting data for meteorology. And for practice accurate information about these climate data undoubtedly is useful; they must be taken into account for regular operations and especially in all kinds of new enterprises on agriculture in the broad sense, technical facilities, for example, during the railway making and so on, concerning military purposes etc. Generally for the region the study of its climate is essential and has not only scientific, but also practical significance" (State Budget Institution "State Archive of the Orenburg region").

At the end of 1874 the "Orenburgskiy Gubernskiy Vedomosti" published a table of meteorological observations in Orenburg, containing data for several days of the month. Information for 10-16 November 1874 was presented by M. Chernyshev ("Orenburgskiy", 1874), but since November 19, these tables were compiled by civil gymnasium teachers. We can assume that M. S. Chernyshev for some reason stopped his studies. At the moment, we do not have further information on meteorological observations in the Orenburg Nepliyev Cadet Corps, although other enthusiasts continued them in Orenburg. In the 1870s, the Orenburg governor N. A. Kryzhanovskiy and the Main Physical Observatory corresponded about the provision of necessary facilities of the Orenburg Weather Station. In 1886, it was located in the Orenburg Pedagogical Institute (Koncheva, 2011).

After the opening of scientific societies in Orenburg the staff of the Nepliyev Cadet Corps began to take part in their work. Their research spectrum was different: archeology, history, ethnography and natural history, etc., but such large-scale long-standing research in meteorology, in the Corps was no longer undertaken.

Among the first members of the Orenburg Imperial Russian Geographical Society, opened in 1868, was Colonel of the Life Guards regiment of Lithuania, K. U. Artsyshevskiy professor of Military Science, professor of oriental languages N. M. Bekchurin, class inspector assistant, librarian and curator of natural cabinet Captain A. F. Wikström, Head of Military School and Director of the Nepliyev School in 1864-1876 major general P. V. Domerschikov (1819-1891), and others.

Members of the Orenburg Scientific Archive Commission (OUAK) were the Director of the School since 1876 until 1905 major general F. M. Samotsvet (1834-1907), professors F. M. Lisitsyn, G. S. Khrustalev, about which were preserved memories in the V. Dogadin fund (Dogadin, 1957), A. P. Gra (?-1922). The latter composed an essay on the activities of OUAK for 25 years of its existence (Works, 1914), wrote "Materials on the history of Orenburg. Orenburg 40-ies of the XIX century by the description of Baziner" (Works, 1903), on water supply of Orenburg (Gra, 1903; Gra, 1911), he participated in archaeological excavations, reviewed and compiled descriptions of the OUAK Cossack Department (Works, 1913).

Doctors of the School participated in work of several scientific societies. Senior doctor F. P. Kirillovskiy was a member of the Orenburg Medical Physics Society (Minutes, 1900). One of the most active workers of Orenburg of the Kazan society of military health knowledge adherents in 1912-1913 was A. G. Peredelskiy (1876-1940), "Jr. MD" of the School. In 2008, the "Military Medical Journal" published a paper of V. V. Shappo and M. V. Poddubniy ""Thoughts of a military doctor ... "and their author A. G. Peredelskiy" (Shappo & Poddubny, 2008), which contains the main dates of his life, assesses his professional and scientific activities. The authors have returned to the Russian military history another name. But in chronological outline of A. G. Peredelskiy's life (1876-1940) was a small omission, i.e. the time when he served in Orenburg.

In the Department, he served as Secretary (Minutes, 1914), and guardian of the library (Minutes, 1913), but most importantly-he suggested focus for this scientific association. In the "Overview of activity of Moscow and Warsaw societies of military health knowledge adherents and the desired program of activities of our society," he suggested, comparing the performance of two Societies, to take the sample of Moscow. But so far as his program was too vast for the Orenburg Department numerically far inferior than the capital department (Minutes, 1913), meeting attendees decided to focus its efforts on a single issue and seek to expand the collaboration of doctors and military officers for a comprehensive study and improve military health business on the outskirts of Russia in the "sanitary tactically" context (Minutes, 1913). Besides this, they were read reports "On the plague of man" (Minutes, 1914) and "On the training of military physicians to the modern requirements of Military Medical Service" (Minutes, 1913), in which the author, analyzed the literature on the topic over the last decade and based on their own observations, presented his draft preparation "health officers", i.e. doctors who had military training, in addition to medical, necessary military education, which, as a particular specialty, did not exist in that moment (Minutes, 1913). The report "On human plague" was read in the meeting garrison building where took place an extended meeting of the Society and garrison staff and senior officers free from service, who arrived there on the orders of management (Minutes, 1914). In late October 1913, A. G. Peredelskiy left the service in Orenburg and continued it in the 84<sup>th</sup> Shirvan regiment in Pyatigorsk (Minutes, 1914). At the meeting of October 26, 1913, the Chairman of the Department P. A. Solomin on behalf of all those present expressed to A. G. Peredelskiy gratitude

for the secretary's work of the scientific association, because, according to him, Alexander Georgievich, like sanitary tactician was especially necessary in this place, and also thanked him for organization of printed works of the Department (Minutes, 1914). But although he had left the city, he continued to be a member of the Department, by clicking in the corresponding members (Minutes, 1914).

## 5. Conclusion

The aim of the Orenburg Neplyuev Cadet Corps was preparing to enroll in college or the military service in the region. We can talk about the scientific work of the staff of the institution only as about their own initiative, in varying degrees, supported by the leadership of the institution. At the same time, estimating the volume and quality of research conducted by teachers, we can talk about the level of education of the teaching staff and to correlate it with the quality of knowledge acquired by the leavers of these schools. Among the leaders of the Orenburg Neplyuev Cadet Corps were: military historian, writer, major general V. M. Anichkov (1830-1877), infantry generals V. D. Dandeville (1826-1907), and N. G. Zalesov (1828-1896), Minister of War D. S. Shuvaev (1854-1937), Ataman of Orenburg Cossack troops A. I. Dutov (1879-1921) and others famous personalities, who glorified himself in the field of military science and culture and left an imprint in Russian history.

The result of research activities of faculty and staff of the School was that meteorological studies, which received systematic beginning in this school, not only had a tremendous value for Orenburg, but contributed to the Russian science and gained already in the XIX century an appreciation of scientists. Without their work it would be virtually impossible to obtain climate data of the area. The involvement of local scientific societies contributed to the development of regional science.

Currently compiling name lists of researchers who worked in the Orenburg Neplyuev Cadet Corps is not yet completed, so now we have not quite complete picture of their scientific activities. In the future, we will work to further identify researchers who worked in this institution, collect information of a biographical nature, study their scientific activities and bring found materials to the scientific community with a view to fill the gaps in the history of regional science. Given that this military school was not the only one in Orenburg, this paper can be considered as a landmark work on the study of the contribution of scientists and lovers of the military department for establishment of regional science at a time when in the province there were not yet professional scientists.

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