Scientific article

УДК 930.253+618.4+94(47)+930.253

DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2021-4-1009-1022

Mitsyuk, Natalia A.

Smolensk State Medical University, Smolensk, Russian Federation

Belova, Anna V.

Tver State University, Tver, Russian Federation; N. N. Miklouho-Maclay Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russian Federation

Pushkareva, Natalia L.

N. N. Miklouho-Maclay Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences,
Moscow, Russian Federation

Source Potential of the Fonds of Maternity Hospitals and Wards in Pre-Revolutionary Russia: Second Half of the 18th – Early 20th Century

Abstract

The study is devoted to the analysis of archival materials of maternity hospitals and departments in Russia in the second half of the 18th – early 20th century stored in the Department for the storage of documents until 1917 of the Central State Archive of Moscow, in the Central State Historical Archive of St. Petersburg, in the State Archive of the Yaroslavl Region, and in the State Archive of the Smolensk Region. The voluminous files of maternity wards have meager viewing lists and are rarely engaged in historical research. However, introduction into scientific use of documents from maternity wards and medical reports is important for research on social and demographic history and that of childbirth, as well as for the history of everyday life, women's and gender history. Hence springs the purpose of this study, which is to identify the source potential of the fonds of maternity hospitals and departments in pre-revolutionary Russia and information capabilities of medical reports, journals, and maternity cards. The authors have established that materials found in these fonds can be divided into several categories: acceptance cards of women in labor, clinical cards of obstetrics, patient histories. The documents recreate the picture of the development of clinical obstetrics, the daily life of women in labor in the clinic, the interaction of doctors and patients. These materials can be a valuable source for studying the representation of body culture, reproductive behavior, hygiene, sexual socialization. The analysis of archival documents concludes that while in the first decades of their existence, maternity wards ministered to the poor strata of the population in birth of illegitimate children, in the 1910s they catered women from wealthy families. An important result of the comprehensive study of archival material is the discovery of information capabilities of the fonds of pre-revolutionary maternity wards in the central and regional archives of Russia. Pregnancy cards contain extensive history, including data on the first sexual intercourse, beginning of menses, number of pregnancies, age at the time of first pregnancy, thus providing important information on the history of sexual

socialization, female physicality, and reproductive culture. A meaningful analysis of these materials allows the conclusion that maternity ward journals, patient histories, midwives' reports contribute to the study of social, everyday, and gender history; and provide new information for studying the history of corporeality, childbirth, sexuality.

Keywords

Historical sources, documents of maternity wards, medical reports, social history of childbirth, women's history, informational capabilities of cards of women in labor, women in labor, midwives.

Download the article: [mitsyuk_belova_pushkareva_doi](#)

References

BELOVA, A. V. Organizatsiya rodov i rodovspomozheniya v dvoryanskoi srede Rossii XVIII – serediny XIX veka [Organization of childbirth and obstetrics in noble families of Russia in the 18th – mid-19th century. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik Tverskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta. Seriya: Istoriya [Bulletin of the Tver State University. Series: History], 2014, no. 2, issue 14, pp. 29–48.

VEREMENKO, V.A., ZHUKOVA, A.E. Vospitatel'nye praktiki v dvoryansko-intelligentskikh

sem'yakh Rossii vtoroi poloviny XIX-nachala XX v. [Educational practices in noble and intelligensia families of Russia in the second half of the 19th – early 20th century. In Russ.]. St. Petersburg, LGU im. A.S. Pushkina publ., 2020, 232 p.

MITSYUK, N. A., BELOVA, A. V. Akusherskii trud kak pervaya ofitsial'naya professiya zhenshchin v Rossii v XVIII – nachale XX v. [Midwifery as the first official profession of women in Russia in the 18th - early 20th century. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik Rossiiskogo universiteta druzhby narodov. Seriya: Istoriya Rossii [Bulletin of the People's Friendship University of Russia. Series: Russian History], 2021, vol. 20, no. 2, pp. 270–285. DOI: 10.22363/2312-8674-2021-20-2-270-285

MITSYUK, N. A., PUSHKAREVA, N. L., BELOVA, A. V. Istoriya detorozhdeniya kak predmet sotsial'no-gumanitarnykh issledovaniy v Rossii [The history of childbirth as the subject of social and humanitarian studies in Russia. In Russ.]. IN: Istoriya meditsiny, 2019, vol. 6, no. 3, pp. 206–212. DOI: 10.17720/2409-5583.t6.3.2019.04d

MITSYUK, N. A., PUSHKAREVA, N. L. Meditsinskoe osvidetel'stvovanie v rassledovanii "lisheniya devstva" v Rossii serediny XIX veka [Medical examination in the investigation of "deprivation of virginity" in Russia in the mid-19th century. In Russ.]. IN: Novyi istoricheskii vestnik, 2019, no. 1 (59), pp. 42–61.

MITSYUK, N. A., PUSHKAREVA, N. L., OSTAPENKO, V. M. Zarozhdenie professional'nogo rodovspomozheniya v Smolenskoii gubernii v XIX v. – nachale XX v. [The emergence of professional obstetrics in the Smolensk gubernia in the 19th – early 20th century. In Russ.]. IN: Istoriya meditsiny, 2017, no. 4, pp. 420–436.

LOUDON, I. Death in Childbirth: An International Study of Maternal Care and Maternal Mortality 1800-1950. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1992, 622p.

About the authors

Mitsyuk Natalia Aleksandrovna, PhD in History, Smolensk State Medical University, Department of History of Medicine, Bioethics, assistant professor, Smolensk, Russian Federation, +7-920-329-70-55, mitsyuk.natalia@gmail.com

Belova Anna Valeryevna, PhD in History, associate professor, Tver State University, department of world history, head of the department, Tver, Russian Federation, N. N. Miklouho-Maclay Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Center for Gender Studies, leading researcher, Moscow, Russian Federation, 8-495-954-80-78, 8-482-234-70-11, +7-903-631-65-93, anna.belova@iea.ras.ru, Belova.AV@tversu.ru

Pushkareva Natalia Lvovna, PhD in History, professor, N. N. Miklouho-Maclay Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Center for Gender Studies, chief researcher, head of the center, Moscow, Russian Federation, +7-916-324-93-89, pushkarev@mail.ru

Grant information

The article has been prepared with financial support of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (science project no. 19-09-00191) within the framework of the research project “Women's social memory as consolidating potential of multigenerational family, strengthening statehood and the Russian nation (18th -21st centuries).”

Submitted 1.08.2021, published (for citation):

MITSYUK, N. A., BELOVA, A. V., PUSHKAREVA, N. L. Istochnikovedcheskii potentsial fondov roditel'skikh domov i otdelenii v dorevolyutsionnoi Rossii. Vtoraya polovina XVIII – nachalo XX veka [Source Potential of the Fonds of Maternity Hospitals and Wards in Pre-Revolutionary Russia: Second Half of the 18th – Early 20th Century. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik arhivista / Herald of an Archivist, 2021, no. 4, pp. 1009-1022. doi 10.28995/2073-0101-2021-4-1009-1022

You can read completely article in the russian historic-archival magazine “The Herald of an Archivist”. Read more about terms of subscription [here](#) .

Полностью материал публикуется в российском историко-архивоведческом журнале ВЕСТНИК АРХИВИСТА. Ознакомьтесь с условиями подписки [здесь](#) .