

"Schilling, 1775"

According to V. N. Semenov, in his book "*V Starinu Saratovskuyu*," 1774 was a very hard year for the Saratov region. On May 17 of that year, a severe fire destroyed much of the city, "leaving only the name of the city behind." This was followed by the famous Pugachev Rebellion. At that time, the director of the *Kontora* of Oversight of Foreigners was one Mikhail Lodyzhensky, who signed many of the documents in this file. These documents are the result of the damage assessments made by Lodyzhensky and others, following the Pugachev Rebellion.

A contemporary account of the festivities of the rebellion by Ivan Storozhev of the 2nd merchant's guild (according to Semenov), describes Mr. Lodyzhensky as "That fat man Lodyzhensky, from the Oversight Kontora, even in June - Pugach[ev] was still far away - intended to take command. His belly stuck out, his caftan couldn't meet in the middle of his chest, a tri-cornered [hat] was perched on his peruke. He was all shaved and fat, his little eyes darted about. His voice was meek, not strong." [*V Starinu Saratovskuyu: Ocherki I rasskazy o proshlom nashego kraya. Saratov, Detskaya Kniga*, "In Old Saratov: outlines and stories of the past of our region." 1993. p. 90.]

Storozhev goes on to describe the squabbles and fears of the officials who were attempting to counteract the rebellion. Lodyzhensky had 350 soldiers and 80 Cossacks. The military commander, Boshnyakov (with whom Lodyzhensky did not get along) had 150 soldiers and two regiments of Cossacks. It was estimated that Pugachev at that time had "13 cannons, 300 Yaik Cossacks with rifles, 2000 Stavropol cossacks and other Kalmyks, Tatars, Yasashy, Bashkirs, Kirgiz, and other savage tribes, in addition to peasants, serfs, lackeys, and other collected scum." According to accounts, few, if any of the colonists participated in the rebellion. According to Storozhev, most simply ran away.

Pugachev was eventually captured, tried, convicted in Moscow. His fate was quite typical for the times: hanging, drawing, and quartering. His severed head was placed on a pike on the Kremlin wall. In Saratov, Lodyzhensky and his people were left to pick up the pieces.