INDIVIDUAL DISCURSIVE MEMORY PRACTICES: EXPERIENCE OF A FAMILY HISTORICAL RESEARCH

The article offers some results of the authors’ search for answers to questions about the causes and consequences of what happened at the family and everyday level against the background of large-scale events in the period spanning a century and a half of Russian history. Detailed research in a complex interdisciplinary field, covering such auxiliary scientific disciplines as genealogy, biography, prosopography, narrative and discourse analysis, etc., includes work with a family photo archive. Along with a detailed study of the biographies of representatives of previous generations, travels took place in memory of five of them. One of the main sources for determining the direction and organizing the route, visiting certain objects on the spot is the family photo archive. There is a brief review about the travels of one of the authors over the past ten years, associated with the memory of ancestors. The travel to Kamchatka in September 2021 was the fifth in a row dedicated to the memory of the ancestor of the authors on the maternal side Porfiry Alexandrovich Mordovin (03.11.1852–after 1918), an officer of the Russian Imperial Navy, who had gone through twenty six-months campaigns, a participant in the Battle of Tsushima, who went missing in March 1918. The official record of accomplishment indicates that Porfiry Aleksandrovich from 19.05.1880 to 22.05.1883 and from 01.09.1891 to 01.11.1898 was on the clipper “Zabiyaka” on a foreign voyage. Photos in the album refer to the second period of his stay in the Far East. The complete archive of P. A. Mordovin, including these expeditions, was lost or deliberately destroyed in Soviet times, several buttons from his uniform, a dagger and a photo album have survived, 97 photos of 250 belong to the Pacific region, and 50 photos contain signatures indicating Petropavlovsk (now the capital of the region Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky) and the surrounding area. The preliminary result of the research is the introduction into scientific circulation of 30 out of 97 photographs of 1892–1894 from the album of Porfiry Alexandrovich Mordovin, relating to the Far East region. Photographs of persons, their places of residence at one stage
or another of their biography are the way that authors use as an “observation tool” when preparing for a travel, during it and during the subsequent description. Additional research will require the issues of memory mapping and memory distortions about representatives of the genus and their activities in distant eras.

**Keywords:** historical travel, discursive practices, genealogy, photography as an observation tool, memory display, memory distortion

## Introduction. Family archives as a basis for individual commemoration

The family archive as an ordered collection of material, documentary, photographic and other materials formed in the process of the life of individuals, both the family and the entire clan, is given in the article “Family Archive as a Necessary Initial Source of Information in Historical and Genealogical Research”. The authors of the article, father and son Alenichevs, define the objects of their complex historical and genealogical work as “documentary, material and other materials stored in the family archive”. The motives indicate “guilt to parents, grandfathers and grandmothers, to the ancestors whom they recognized in the process of searching and to whom they owe their lives” [1; P. 25].

Much has been written about the increase over time since the event in the value of genuine personal sources. The author of a wonderful book about the rank and file of the Russian Imperial Navy, participants in the Russian-Japanese War of 1904-1905, "Forgotten Heroes", S.A. Gladkikh writes: “In the last decade, such branches of scientific and historical knowledge as microhistory and military historical anthropology have begun to actively develop in Russia. At the junction of these emerging historical disciplines, a new kind of military-historical biography appears. (...) The brightest opportunity for the analysis of such a metamorphosis is provided by war – an event extraordinary for any person engaged in peaceful labor” [4; P. 10]. This theme is continued by the father and son G.V. and K.G. Ozerovs: “Studying the “cornerstone” events of History through the prism of dozens of memories of direct witnesses, we not only better understand the sequence of actions of the warring parties, but also more clearly see each person involved in the whirlpool of the conflict” [10; P. 8].

In general, the concept of “archive” has the following meanings: 1) an institution or structural unit of an organization that stores, collects, records and uses archival documents; 2) a collection of written monuments (manuscripts, letters, etc.) related to the activities of an institution or person. The topic of this study is the second meaning of the concept of “archive”. Let us quote the words of M. Chudakova: “I remember – it means I exist: this is how both individuals and communities of people could say about themselves. (...) It has already become an axiom that the personality of a person is inconceivable outside the con-
tinuous memory of past events. “Man is the sum of his past,” says W. Faulkner. In a certain sense, humanity is the sum of its past; with the past, with the concept of tradition, at least, the concept of culture is firmly connected. Archives are one of the most important reservoirs of human memory” [3; P. 18]. Professor Yu. Z. Kantor convincingly writes about the ratio between the feelings of grief for the dead and the feelings of a winner in the memory of the people. There are words about the politics of memory, the ideology of history, the glorification of war, the upbringing of patriotism through historical memory: “There is no single historical objectivity: there is a collective image for reconstruction. Thus, memory can be frozen in stone, such as monuments, or in textbooks, (we are used to consider what is written in a textbook almost the ultimate truth). Only with age do we understand that there is another memory, not crystallized, such as diaries, living memories” [5]. Much has been written about the tragedies of the past through the prism of family stories. The genetic memory of the authors of books often leads to difficult, annoying topics, pushing the reader out of the zone of psychological comfort. The book of philosophical essay "In Memory of Memory" by Maria Stepanova about everyone's right to immortality [12; P. 18]. It intertwines memories of relatives with stories of searching for information about them. The main plot of this prose outside the genre, devoted to various aspects of memory, is the “adventures of the author's thought”, from the age of 10-11 she realized the need (“I will have to write this text”) to compose an exhaustive text about family history, “where all and everything would be saved”). When writing the book, the linear narrative – the history of searches and finds – “I'll go there, I'll go here, find out everything, describe” – faded into the background. It turned out that most of the gaps in family history can neither be found nor filled. Instead of a monument to relatives, the book “came out in a sense as a text about unconsciousness”. The author emphasizes that he lives inside a structure where everything is somehow connected and rhymed: in a world consisting of many answers to a single question.

Exactly similar reflections that are closely intertwined with the intra-family discursive practices of the authors of this article.

The authors' great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather Porfiry Mordovin, an officer of the Russian Imperial Navy went through twenty half-a year campaigns, during the Battle of Tsushima on May 14-15, 1905 was the senior mechanical engineer of the cruiser “Dmitry Donskoy”, disappeared in 1918, his resting place is unknown.

It was the bitter regret of the authors' relatives about the impossibility of learning about the causes of death and the resting places of the authors' great-grandfathers and great-great-grandfathers that led to a detailed study of their fate and the idea of travel in their memory.
The family retains the memory of these people, communication with them, their behavior, demeanor, ability to express their thoughts, defend their opinions, their inimitable humor with an instant transition to French, German, less often English. The once vast kinship and friendship circle has almost melted away by the 20-s of the 21st century. It remains to remember about the missing, killed, tortured, exiled, separated for years from their relatives, humiliated, hiding, adapting, afraid to find out where their loved ones disappeared. Understand that many lives, families, careers did not take place; delve into the materials of family archives, collect details, go to the state archives, decipher letters to and from exile, from the front and to the front, read between the lines, and think, do not get tired of thinking, ask yourself painful questions. Twenty-one representatives of the Mordovin family, who served in the Maritime and Land departments, have already been mentioned in written words in various publications.

In late 1930s, twelve known representatives of the clans were repressed; their fate is awaiting detailed study. Among them, Alexander Pavlovich Mordovin (03.02.1873–31.03.1938), a colonel, in 1914 the head of the Main Gymnastics and Fencing school. The Book of Memory of the Novgorod Region tells that he was a non-party librarian of secondary school number 1, lived in Novgorod region, Borovichi district and was arrested on September 19, 1937, then sentenced to death, shot on March 31, 1938 and buried in Borovichi. The authors plan to visit Borovichi in 2022.

Photo 1. Alexander Pavlovich Mordovin
Photo 2. Based on the photograph taken by J. Steinberg, 1914. Those present at the meeting: 1) Chief Supervisor of The Physical Training Development, Palace Commandant G. N. Voeikov. 2) Assistant to the Chief Supervisor D.Sc., Actual State Councilor V. I. Sreznevksiy. 3) Supervisor of The Fencing School, Lieutenant General Chepurnov. 4) Prof. Zalessky. 5) The Head of the Main Gymnastics and Fencing School, Colonel Mordovin. 6) Chairman of the Lawn Tennis Club MacPherson 7) Assistant to the Head of the Main Gymnastics and Fencing School, Lieutenant Colonel Galkin. 8) Captain V. I. Sarievsky. 9) Director of the Imperial Alexander Lyceum, Lieutenant General Schilder. 10) Doctor Stasenko et al.

The service record of Porfiry Alexandrovich dated February 18, 1909 indicates that he was married to the daughter of the Actual State Councilor Karpov, the girl Ekaterina Petrovna and had a son Georgy, born on November 29, 1901, and a daughter, Nina, born on December 21, 1903.
The following is a memoir from 1971 by one of the authors of the article: “On my way from school, I am thinking about the information I have just received (I am 8 years old) about class inequality and serfdom. I am vividly imagining a lady in a portrait (I already know that this is grandmother's mother Nina, my great-grandmother Katya) with a whip drawn over the backs of the unfortunate serfs. Apparently, my childish imagination ranked her to the class of the oppressors. At home, I ask Grandmother Nina if Ekaterina Petrovna beat the peasants in the stables? Outwardly not at all surprised, continuing to peel potatoes, Nina Porfirievna replied: “Your great-grandmother, child, was a very peaceful, very educated person for her time, for women of that era knew mathematics not bad, dreamed of Bestuzhev courses, medical education. She became the wife of a naval officer, a mechanical engineer, your great-grandfather Porfa". Later I learned that at the age of 17 Catherine met the 36-year-old assistant to the senior mechanical engineer Porfiry at the Christmas ball at the Kronstadt Naval Assembly in 1888, waited for him for 11 years and got married at the age of 28 in 1899. The record of accomplishment and the list of voyages of P.A. confirm the chronology: from 1889 to 1899, there were overseas voyages indicated. March 29, 1899 P.A. transferred from the Siberian naval crew to the Baltic Fleet, on August 3 of the same year he got permit to leave for the place of service in St. Petersburg". The photographs presented in connection with the fifth travel dedicated to the memory of Porfiry Alexandrovich belong to this period.

However, before the presentation of Kamchatka photographs, travels of 2012–2017 to Japan (Tsushima Island), Latvia (Liepaja) and Morocco (Tangier), connected with the parking areas of the Second Pacific Squadron, in which P. A. Mordovin sailed from Kronstadt to Tsushima, should be mentioned. In Japan, they also visited the resting place of Georgy Alexandrovich Mordovin (26.05.1846–26.11.1884). We know the following about his last days: “While the Clipper “Naezdnik” was stationed in Nagasaki, senior officer Lieutenant Commander G. A. Mordovin fell seriously ill. He was placed in the house of the translator Shiga. Every day his colleagues visited him, until the “Naezdnik” left on November 10, 1884 for Russia. Then he was looked after by Golavsky, the ship's doctor of the corvette “Skobelev”, and after he left, the junior doctor Milonas from the frigate “Minin” looked after him. This ship was supposed to send for Yokohama, but did not want to leave the officer alone. Apparently, he felt that he would not survive the separation. On the night of November 25–26, 1884 G. A. Mordovin died. The crew dutifully accompanied the sailor on his last journey. The burial is located at the threshold of the southern entrance to the chapel with the inscription “Georgy Alexandrovich Mordovin. The senior officer of the clipper “Naezdnik”, the 2nd Rank Captain, died on November 26, 1884.
In March 2013, the visit to the burial place of Georgy Porfirievich Mordovin (29.11.1901–died from injury on 27.04.1945) in Austria, near Vienna, happened. Georgy studied at the Karl May School on Vasilievsky Island in St. Petersburg; the last 55th graduation took place in 1918. Having received a serious secondary education, knowing three languages, Georgy Porfirevich did not have a higher education. According to the stories of Nina Porfirievna (03.01.1904–20.03.1974), he did not consider it necessary to hide his noble origins. There are photographs that testify to his expeditionary work together with Nina's husband, authors’ grandfather and great-grandfather Stepan Antonovich Petrikevich (18.02.1903–28.12.1970), head of the survey expedition of the State Institute "Giprorechtrans". Nina Porfirievna entered the Geographical Institute in 1921 (since 1925 as a part of the University, then LGU), indicating in the questionnaire that she originated “from the philistines”. She received the specialty of a limnologist and from 1925 to 1964 worked at the Department of Hydrometry of the State Hydrological Institute.


Photo 8. Georgy Porfirievich Mordovin (left) in 1943.
In 2017, there was a travel to Australia that also became not accidental and took its place in family discursive memory practices. There is the following information about the intersections of family history plots, supported by documents and relics, with the history of Russian-Australian relations in the 19th century. One of the heroes of the art activity of the Australian poet, artist, philosopher David Wonsbrough, an acquaintance from the English Language Evenings (ELE) public lecture forum in Moscow, is the famous Russian traveler and scientist Nikolai Nikolaevich Miklouho-Maclay. O. Beller met the works of David in his house in the nearest suburb of Sydney, Turramurra. From Nina Porfirievna Petrikevich (nee Mordovina), she heard stories that Nina Porfirievna's uncle Mikhail Alexandrovich Mordovin (Porfiry's twin brother) was familiar with Miklouho-Maclay. Until now, the family keeps a carriage clock with the inscription “Russian Squadron Regatta Sydney 1882” inherited from the authors' great-uncle and great-grandfather Boris Mikhailovich Mordovin, the son of Mikhail Alexandrovich.

The intersection of Miklouho-Maclay's fate with Mikhail's fate is documented in the latter's service record: “On October 9, 1879, he was transferred to The 5th Naval Crew and was appointed the company commander of the team of the clipper “Vestnik”. Clipper “Vestnik” on September 28, 1881, as part of the detachment of Rear Admiral A. B. Aslanbegov, set sail for the shores of Austral-

ia. On the way back from Melbourne to Singapore, the clipper “Vestnik” transported the famous Russian traveler and explorer N. N. Miklukho-Maclay. In the article "The Stay in Australia of the Squadron of Rear Admiral A. B. Aslanbegov in 1881-1882" Alexander Yakovlevich Massov, a professor, head of the Department of History and Cultural Studies at the St. Petersburg Marine Technical University, the author of more than a hundred scientific papers on this topic and books, including the monograph “St. Andrew's Flag under the Southern Cross. From the history of Russian-Australian relations in the first third of the 19th century” [9; P. 103], writes: “The visit of Aslanbegov's squadron turned out to be the most opportune for the famous Russian traveler N. N. Miklukho-Maclay, who was in Australia at that time. The scientist was looking for a way to return to Russia, and he managed to get a job as a passenger on the clipper “Vestnik”. The squadron's stay in Australia was widely covered in both the local and Russian press. In Australia, information about guests from Russia was, as a rule, of a benevolent nature, and not only the fighting qualities of Russian ships were discussed, but also what is called “Russian exoticism”. Therefore, for example, in the newspapers, there was a detailed report on the church service on one of the ships, and the abundance of icons in the cabins surprised Australians a lot. Russian sailors were recognized as skillful sailors, but at the same time their main drawback was noted – an excessive addiction to alcohol. The Russian press, in turn, emphasized the cordiality of the reception given to the sailors and, not without patriotic pride, reported on the victories of Russian rowers during the regatta in Sydney. The newspapers enthusiastically noted that the Russians were the first to show Australians the benefits of electric lighting. In Tasmania, during the reception on board of the cruiser “Africa” was flooded with the light of “Yablochkov's lanterns”. The newspaper “Kronstadt Vestnik” wrote about this event: “The inhabitants of Hobart had never seen such illumination and were astonished by its striking effect”. In a word, the stay of a detachment of Russian ships in Australia was very successful and fully corresponded to what they commonly call a “visit of goodwill”. The detailed and rather vividly written official reports of Aslanbegov about the stay of his squadron in Australia are supplemented by even more colorful stories about this visit in the memoirs of the sailing participants. Among them, the memoirs of the warrant officer of “Africa” V. F. Rudnev, later a hero of the Russian-Japanese war, the commander of the cruiser "Varyag", and the notes of the junior navigator of the same cruiser, ensign F. A. Timofeevsky, stand out. The most interesting are the sketches of the daily life of the Australians, which amazed the Russians with its extraordinary democracy. For example, Rudnev and his comrades were literally shocked when it turned out that one of the ministers of the South Australian government is a butcher by profession and continues to run a butcher shop.
Another "journey of memory" to Vladivostok in 2017 was dedicated to the memory of two great-grandfathers: P. A. Mordovin and S. P. Yudenko. The ships of the Siberian flotilla, including the cruiser “Zabiyaka”, where Porfiry served, had repeatedly entered Vladivostok. From Vladivostok, he returned to St. Petersburg after the Japanese captivity in December 1905.


Photo 11. Porfiry Alexandrovich Mordovin with the orderly in captivity. Matsuyama. 1905. ►

The great-grandfather of O. Beller and great-great-grandfather of E. Negrov Sergei Platonovich Yudenko (1878–after 1944), went missing in the 1920s, since then there has been no news of him. In Soviet times, the family spoke sparingly about his high pre-revolutionary well-being, about studying gastronomy in Odessa and owning enterprises in the Far East. In 2015, at the request of the Archives of the Khabarovsk Territory, where the thematic database of the Main Bureau for Russian Emigrants in the Manchurian Empire (“BREM”) was transferred, 3 photographs and 11 documents on 30 pages were received, among them autobiographies and questionnaires. It turned out documental that in 1901-1910 he ran a sausage factory in Vladivostok and a gastronomic business in the Elvanger firm, was a co-owner of the Sokhatsky and Yudenko Trading House, two shops and a sausage factory. The advertisements “Wine and grocery store of Sokhatsky-Yudenko” with the address "Svetlanskaya, Pyankov's house", found
in the library of the Society for the Study of the Amur Region in the publication of the Primorsky Regional Statistical Committee of 1910 on the pages of the “Commemorative Book of the Primorsky Region for 1909-10. All offices and officials of the Primorsky region” confirmed this.

Based on the analysis of documents, the following route can be traced in his fate geographically: the village of Perekopovka, Poltava province, currently belongs to the Sumy region – Odessa – Vladivostok – Blagoveshchensk – Harbin – railway station Barim. After almost ten years of commercial activity in Vladivostok, in 1910–1918 he owned and operated hotels “Russia” and “Kuvshinovskoe Podvorie”, a bathhouse, a billiard room of 15 billiards, a store, shares of the Matvienko steam mill in Blagoveshchensk. In 1918, after the requisition of all property by the Bolsheviks, he went to prison; in 1921, he fled from Blagoveshchensk through Sakhalyan. He indicated gastronomy and sausage business as his main specialty and his additional specialty was a construction contractor. From 1921 to 1924, he worked for Chinese Eastern Railways. The main contract was “supplying all buildings with central heating”.

The next two years, 1925–1926, Sergei Platonovich describes as follows: “I have nothing to do. I cleaned the streets in winter”. From 1927 to 1937 he took part in the construction of the Khuha railway under the leadership of engineer Ostroumov, he had a "Construction office". In 1935–36. Yudenko was the manager of the New World Hotel in Harbin. During a short visit to China in June 2017, this hotel was found by chance thanks to the intuition of Vladimir Nikolaevich Vasilenko, who accompanied O. N. Beller during this journey. Later, from 1938 to 1941 questionnaires indicate doing business in Tsitsikar, then from 1941 to 1944 housekeeping at the Barim railway station. The last mention of him dated 21.12.1944 was recorded in the biographical profile of his stepson. Some things of the family of Sergei Platonovich have survived, such as bronze table lamp, Chinese embroidery on black silk for decorating screens, a pasochnitsa (mold for making cottage cheese Easter) and stencils for making artificial flowers. In July 2021, they visited the village of Perekopovka, where Sergei Platonovich was born, as well as Odessa, where he studied gastronomic and sausage business from A. K. Dubinin. The authors plan to work in the archives of Odessa, Sumy and Poltava regions in order to clarify the early years of the biography of S.P. Yudenko.

Travel to the Kamchatka Territory to the places of the expedition and photographic sketches by P.A. Mordovin: how everyday life becomes historical

Preparations for the travel in September 2021 included, almost first of all, a selection of Kamchatka photographs from the album of Porfiry Alexandrovich Mordovin. It was mentioned above that he went through twenty half-a-year campaigns. The complete archive of these expeditions was lost or deliberately destroyed during the Soviet era. There several buttons from the uniform, his dagger and photo album remain. Ninety-seven of 250 photographs belong to the Pacific region, and 50 contain signatures indicating Petropavlovsk (now the capital of the region, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky) and surroundings. Below are some photographs from the album of P.A. Mordovin with accompanying information. The official service record indicates that Porfiry Aleksandrovich from 19.05.1880 to 22.05.1883 and from 01.09.1891 to 01.11.1898 was on the clipper “Zabiyaka” on a foreign voyage. The photographs refer to the second period of his stay in the Far East. According to the stories of his daughter Nina Porfirievna, her father took pictures himself, but there are no authorship and exact dates in most of the photographs. In 37 photographs there is an indication of the authorship of Anjou dated 1892–94, three photographs bear the signature of Rostislav Dmitrievich Zelenetsky. The surname of
Anjou is known, but which of the relatives of the Arctic explorer, Admiral Pyotr Fedorovich Anjou, is the author of the photographs, remains to clear up.

Clarification of the authorship of photographs from P. A. Mordovin's album requires additional research. Now, it is possible to give a description of some photographs, accompanied by excerpts from the book “Okhotsk-Kamchatka Territory”. [Petropavlovsk, 1897–1898] N. V. Slyunin, contemporary of Porfiry Alexandrovich [11]. Nikolai Vasilyevich Slyunin, a student of the Belgorod Theological Seminary and a graduate of the Medical-Surgical Academy in St. Petersburg in 1882, in the Far East and Kamchatka in 1892–1893 collected anthropological and zoological collections, was engaged in the study of the fur seal issue. For almost two decades he served as a ship's doctor on the ships of the Russian fleet, including “Ne tron' menya”, "Vladimir Monomakh", "Sivuch", "Vityaz", "Rusalka", "Yakut", "Asia", "Sysoy Veliky". We can assume with a fair degree of confidence that Porfiry Alexandrovich was familiar with the author of the text below.

“Of all the northern districts, only Petropavlovsk retained the name and retained the rights of the city, having a representative of its interests in the person of the city head, while all the rights and duties of the city head, after the abolition of this place, in Gizhiga and Okhotsk were assigned to the district police department. Petropavlovsk is beautifully stretched out like an amphitheater along a rather steep slope of the ridge rising from the eastern side of Avacha Bay, and from the west a small ridge fences it off with a cherished birch grove known as Nikolskaya Sopka (hill).

There is a small, but convenient for anchorage, Petropavlovsk Bay between them, with a separate spit, on the border of which were Kamchadal summer yurts and batteries, and now there is a beautiful monument of "Glory" in honor of the heroic victory of a handful of brave men.

Behind the city on the northern side, now behind a small lake, the Mishennaya Hill rises, and behind it, in the distance, in a bright blue sky, the tops of two hills outlined: Koryatskaya and Avachinskaya, covered with snow for most of the year. The population of the city is 383 persons of both sexes. The buildings of Petropavlovsk are arranged in two rows, above which the houses are already huddled in disarray; along the entire city stretches only one street, overgrown with grass, with holes and dilapidated bridges through hill springs flowing from Babi Ridge [10; P. 37].

The street is neither cobbled nor rammed; after rains and on rainy autumn days, it is dirty to the point of impassability, so some owners make temporary floor panels. The houses are surrounded by palisade gardens, with garden ridges and outbuildings for livestock. For the winter, due to heavy snow, these palisades are removed so as not to trap the snow, and, despite this, all houses are up to half, and sometimes to the very roofs, are covered with snowdrifts. On the main street, snow is often 1–2 fathoms thick. The living quarters are lined with poor woods, covered with bark, grass, timber and iron, and all riddled with tin patches from underneath kerosene cans.

In the summer they work to unload goods or are hired on commercial steamers for the Okhotsk voyage; others are killing time on ships of war, waiting for the crew's lunch and the occasional glass; in the evening the sounds of harmonica, dancing and violent, drunken speeches are heard.
They care little about fishing, relying on winter earnings from trade and haulage. Therefore, both the view of the city, with its crumbling huts, and the inhabitants themselves, skinny, ragged and drunk, makes an extremely unpleasant impression. Getting into Petropavlovsk for the first time, you don’t believe your own eyes when you look at these pathetic, patched, lopsided huts, between which there is not even a decent path in the upper ranks: you always go straight through ravines, heaps of manure and hills of garbage, about the cleaning of which no one has ever did not think, despite the order of the governor-general.
The buildings and houses of the trading company, which owns almost half of all buildings in Petropavlovsk, are in complete contrast to the local huts. They are built in American style from imported materials, sheathed with boards, all painted, covered with iron or wooden tiles. The trading company owns four large houses in the city and ten shops with 2 baths and a glacier; up to a dozen warehouses also belong to it along the shores of the bay, with the exception of two state-owned stores.

Apparently, in spite of the sad appearance of the city, the trade turnover was so good that it required so many buildings and allowed considerable luxury in furnishings.
Some of the best-looking houses, though very dilapidated, include the state house for the district chief with a beautiful garden of white poplars, and the police department. The city school of the Ministry of Public Education, the only one in all northern districts, does not have its own building, but is housed in a social storage shed, slightly adapted for classroom activities. This school, as well as the teacher's house, is built of planks and plywood in the American style of summer buildings.

There are two churches in the city, summer and winter ones; the first is quite roomy, but extremely poor, although it is famous for ancient icons and rare-artistic painting in the dome of the Lord of Hosts. This painting on canvas is valued at 10 000 rubles. Among the ancient icons, the image of St. Peter and Paul, built at the expense and support of Bering's companions in memory of his salvation during the sad catastrophe on November 4, 1741. The warm church has a rather shabby appearance and a modest decoration inside; built from American wood.
Not far from it to the north is the so-called Mass Grave, where the British, French and Russians who died during the Petropavlovsk Battle are buried. There are three crosses over the three common graves and a wooden chapel nearby. On August 24, 1854, the dead defenders of the city and the Anglo-French were buried in two mass graves near the powder magazine at the foot of Nikolskaya Sopka (hill): on the right – Russian soldiers, on the left – English and French ones” [10; P.85].

More details about the Petropavlovsk defense in August 1854, you may read in the recollections of participants, including the first military governor of Kamchatka, organizer and head of defense Vasily Stepanovich Zakoi. Chief of watch of the frigate “Aurora” Konstantin Pavlovich Pilkin, military engineer Konstantin Iosifovich Mrovinsky, the commander of battery No. 2, Dmitry Petrovich Maksutov, military engineer responsible for the development of the batteries of the Petropavlovsk port, Dmitry Petrovich Maksutov, assistant to the Kamchatka military governor Alexander Pavlovich Arbuzov left the memoirs on those days. Subsequently, a number of fundamental historical studies appeared, examining in detail the hostilities of both sides.

This episode, insignificant in terms of the scale of hostilities, was the only Russian victory during the Crimean War of 1853–1856. For ten days, the city was under martial law. On August 18, the Anglo-French squadron entered it consisting of three English ships (frigates “President” and “Pike” and the steamer “Virago”) and three French ships (frigates “Fort” and “Eurydice” and
brig “Obligado”). The joint squadron under the command of Admiral David Price had 212 naval guns and 2250 sailors and marines at its disposal. The frigate “Avrora” and the transport “Dvina” were stationed in Avacha Bay, the defenders of the city could oppose them with only 67 guns and a little more than 900 people. On August 20, the Anglo-French tried to break through the defenses from the southern side of the Petropavlovsk harbor. Not only professional military men, but also Cossacks, civilians, including 18 volunteers, stood up to defend Petropavlovsk [13; P.85].

The photos below were taken 129 years apart in 1892 and September 2021.

Photo 23. Petropavlovsk. Fraternal cemetery. Nasonov, Nikitas, Mordvinov, Kolchak, Mordvin. 1892. Taken 20 years before the construction of the stone monument “Chapel”.

The collection of information about the persons in the photograph continues. For now, let's list them by last name, first name and patronymic name from left to right: Lieutenant Rafail Viktorovich Nasonov, Warrant Officer Yakov Vasilyevich Nikitas, Lieutenant Konstantin Vasilyevich Mordvinov (25.07.1858–?). The following is known about the next person. A naval officer from the Kolchak dynasty, uncle of the White Admiral, polar explorer, hero of the Russo-Japanese and World War I, the Supreme Ruler of Russia, Alexander Vasilyevich Kolchak – later Rear Admiral Alexander Fedorovich Kolchak (1857 – 1926), in the presented photo – lieutenant, second on the right), the hero of the Russo-Japanese War and the defense of Part-Arthur. After October
1917, he was involved in the Workers and Peasants Red Fleet (RKKF) as a consultant and military specialist. According to one version, A. F. Kolchak, after his death, was buried in 1929 in the area of the Bratsk cemetery of the heroes of the First World War on Sokol, Moscow.

On the right is the authors' great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather Porfiry Alexandrovich Mordovin.

Photo 24.


Photo 25. Petropavlovsk.


The prosperity of a local foreigner is determined by the number of sled dogs, since no work is thinkable without them; and meanwhile in Petropavlovsk,
with its drunken inhabitants, there are about 400 of them and, moreover, of the worst quality, while in Okhotsk, with a smaller population, there are up to 1000 of them.

Because of this, local merchants to transport their goods to the well-known prison, where they have shops, are often forced to turn to neighboring residents for hiring dog sledges”[11; P. 459].

The photographs from the album presented below are accompanied by information collected to date from various sources.
Photo 30. “American cruiser”. American gunboat “Petrel”, which was in the Bering Sea in July-August 1894. Photo of Anjou, 1894.

Photo 31. Firemen of the cruiser “Zabiyaka” fixes again the boiler of a steam boat on the shore in Petropavlovsk.

Photo 32. Petropavlovsk.

Petropavlovsk in the early 80s, when Porfiry Aleksandrovich first came to Kamchatka, was described by several authors, among them W. Gilder: “In the early 80s of the 19th century Petropavlovsk was a small settlement with two churches, a trade shop, and a small school. In 1876, only 421 people lived here. After the attack of the Anglo-French squadron in August 1854, the development of the Amur region by the Russians, the defeat of Russia in the Crimean War, the government decided to abolish the Kamchatka region .... During our stay in Petropavlovsk, along the entire coast of the harbor and the bay, we could see scattered sheds for drying fish, covered with thatched roofs, in a picturesque disorder” [2; C. 43].
Photo 33. The family is an old-timer in Petropavlovsk.

Photo 34. In Petropavlovsk on Nikolskaya Sopka (hill).
Among the attractions of Petropavlovsk there are the grave monument to Bering, buried on the Bering Island; the grave of the commander Clerk, whose squadron entered Petropavlovsk in 1779 and the monument to La Perouse, who was here in 1787, renewed by the efforts of Russian sailors [2; P. 44]. About the prehistory of the creation of the monument, it is also worth giving information on the basis of the book "Monuments of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky" by V. Martynenko and I. Viter [8; P. 53]. After the conclusion of the Versailles Peace Treaty (Paris Peace) in 1783, the French government commissioned J.-F. La Perouse to prepare and lead a 4-year round-the-world expedition to the Pacific Ocean in order to “win the friendship of the leaders of distant tribes”.

The French frigates “Bussol” and “Astrolabe”, having rounded the arc of the Kuril Islands from the ocean side, saw the coast of Kamchatka. It was a country “where the gaze hardly gets used to the sight of huge, almost terrifying rocks, on which at the beginning of September there was snow and it seemed that there was never any kind of vegetation”. They entered the port of Petropavlovsk on September 3, 1787. The appearance of the French ships was unexpected; nevertheless, the sailors were met with true Russian cordiality. On September 29, 1787, the frigates of La Perouse left the port, leaving here the vice-consul J. B. Lesseps, who was to make an overland voyage from Kamchatka to France, preserving for history a part of the letters, reports and maps of the expedition of La Perouse. Of the 242 sailors of the expedition, among whom were sailors, scientists, painters, everyone died except him.

The last news of the expedition was on March 10, 1788, when the frigates left the coast of Australia; in 1822, traces of the disappeared expedition were found on the Vera Cruz archipelago. In 1959, the Belgian scientist G. Taziev discovered the remains of dead frigates at the bottom of the lagoon of the Vanikoro atoll. In 1837, fifty years after La Perouse's visit to the Petropavlovsk port, the French frigate Venus entered Avacha Bay, the commander of which, Captain Dupititioire, had an order from the French government to ask the authorities of Kamchatka to erect a monument in honor of his famous compatriot at the port. The head of Kamchatka, captain of the 1st rank Ya. I. Shakhov, although he did not have any instructions on this matter, agreed to satisfy the guests' request and volunteered to build a monument at his own expense. The French, having given him the plans for the monument, left Petropavlovsk.

The monument was made in Petropavlovsk in 1843 and erected on the isthmus between Signalnaya and Nikolskaya hills. The description of this monument is kept in the Russian State Navy Archive: “A larch pillar has been erected, which nails. Five steps are sheathed with boards, which are painted both outside and inside with oil paint. The monument is all upholstered with sheet iron, smeared at the seams with putty and painted with black paint, on top of it
there is a ball with a cross, sheathed with tin and gilded. The monument is surrounded by a leafy palisade”. In this form, the monument stood until August 1854, when the battery, located not far from the monument, took the brunt of the ship’s guns of the Anglo-French squadron and the barrage of cannonballs and bombs that fell on the La Perouse Isthmus did not pass the monument to the famous Frenchman. The column was significantly damaged, and over the years it was more and more destroyed [6; P. 23].

The following information is given about the man who, in 1881, made and installed a new one at his own expense on the site of the former monument. Benedict Ivanovich Dybowski (1833–1930) was a geographer, zoologist, physician, linguist, public figure, participant in the Polish liberation uprising. During the Polish Uprising of 1863, he was the commissar of the rebel government in Belarus and Lithuania. After the suppression of the uprising, he was sentenced to hanging, but thanks to Bismarck’s mediation, commuted to 12 years exile in Siberia, where he, together with Viktor Godlevsky, explored Lake Baikal and the Amur River. Thanks to the efforts of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences, Dybowski returned to his homeland in 1877, but soon, wishing to study Kamchatka, he took the post of a district doctor in Petropavlovsk. In particular, he studied in detail the nature of the Commander Islands. A tall wooden cross painted with white paint, erected on a stone base with an attached oval metal plate with an inscription in French: “La Peruse” has fallen into disrepair for 10 years. It should be repeated that the first stay of Porfiry Mordovin in Kamchatka coincides with the period of the life and work of Benedict Dybowski there. In 1892, the sailors of the cruiser “Zabiyaka”, who came to the port of Petropavlovsk, erected another monument to replace the cross installed by Dybowski. A round-shaped stone was installed on the stone foundation preserved from the old monument.

Archpriest D. Sherstennikov described the monument in 1913 as follows: “In a shady birch grove, on the seashore, there is a massive dark red granite 1,2 meters in diameter. The second gray heart-shaped stone is approved on it. This is a splinter from a block of solidified lava. This stone is entwined with thick iron chains with an anchor, the blades of which rest on granite. The inscription reads “In memory of La Perouse. 1787”. A wonderful deep idea is expressed in the original form of the monument. Doesn't dark red granite resemble the disturbing depths of the ocean, on the waves of which a ship sways with a handful of brave sailors who left their homeland and entrusted themselves to the changing elements? Their hearts are filled with a sense of duty, but they are not alien to their impulses to go to where a quiet haven and the joys of life beckon to them. Hope for the future is in harmony with the chains of debt. That is why we see a combination of three emblems – heart, anchor and chain. Or a little differently: in the midst of a storm, the heart asks for love and life, duty calls for courage,
and the anchor of salvation – ardent faith in Providence - inspires the sailor to great deeds, such as those which were performed by the unforgettable Bering and La Perouse, who have now reached their quiet pier, having finished forever your terrestrial voyage”.

In the 30s of 20th century the monument was moved to the city center, to the square on Leninskaya Street, where it still stands today. Only the base of the monument has changed: a stone with an anchor and chains rests on a prism-shaped concrete post, on the facade of which a metal board with a bas-relief depicting a sailing ship is attached. On the stone entwined with chains there is the inscription: “In Memory of La Perouse. 1787 ”[6; P. 34].

In conclusion, there are photographs with a view of the famous Rocks “Three Brothers”, taken 127 years apart.


**Conclusion. Scientific results and plans for the future**

Therefore, the result of the research is the introduction into scientific circulation 30 out of 97 photographs of 1892–1894 from the album of Porfiry Alexandrovich Mordovin, relating to the Far East region. In the future, the presentation of the photographs of the Commander Islands and the death of the corvette “Vityaz” with accompanying information is planned. The activities of voluntary associations of people based on their kinship with historically significant personalities of past eras in the cultural and scientific life of St. Petersburg in recent years is becoming more noticeable among more than 22 000 patriotic associations, clubs and centers, including children and youth ones, funded in terms of state programs of patriotic education. The members of these communities, first, keep the memory of their ancestors in their families. They study materials from
family and state archives, look for and find relatives along distant branches, travel to memorable places, publish the memoirs of their ancestors and articles about them, keep in order burial places, arrange memorial days, speak at meetings on memorable dates.

Acquaintance with representatives of old St. Petersburg families conducting similar studies led the authors of this work to a number of such communities, united by the idea of memory of ancestors and, as a consequence, the preservation of cultural space. Through speeches, publications, days of memory, circles of communication are restored, like-minded people are found, with many of whom the authors of this research met in the Society of the Descendants of the Participants in the Tsushima battle. The main task of the Society, which unites about 250 people, is to preserve the memory of the unprecedented eight-month campaign of the Second and Third Pacific Squadrons.

The range of disciplines and practices united by an interest in biographical research as a historical scientific discipline is constantly expanding. One of the tasks is to overcome the crisis of approaches, methods, forms and kinds of presentation, both in relation to the reconstruction of biographies, restoration of names and destinies and in the use of biographical material (autobiographies, service records, memoirs, interviews, etc.) in further research. It remains relevant to develop mechanisms, methods and techniques for combining heterogeneous factors of public and private life. It is here that the available discursive practices described above help to create a working mechanism for the accumulation of not only family, but also social memory.

The work on the return of names from the kindred circle of authors into the historical turn began in 2008 with the transfer of archival materials to the authors by one of the members of the Mordovin family, a colonel Vladimir Vladimirovich Mordovin (20.06.1948 – 18.05.2008), which he received as a result of requests to various archives. In total, information was collected on twenty-one persons from the Mordovin family, ten of whom served in the Navy Department and eleven in the Land Department. Information about them is presented in historical publications. The continuation of this activity was this presentation of Kamchatka photographs from the album of P. A. Mordovin.

REFERENCES