

Marija CRNIĆ PEJOVIĆ\*

## FOREIGN CITIZENS IN HERCEG NOVI MUNICIPALITY IN 1811

**ABSTRACT:** *At the time of the French rule in the Bay of Kotor (1807-1814), records were kept on the foreigners residing on its territory. During this period, the civil authorities were subordinated to the military authorities who adopted orders on recording foreigners. The persons who did not register a foreigner immediately and offer him lodging before receiving an approval from the military authorities were subjected to a fine and military laws. On the basis of the list of foreigners from 1811, we find out that there were twenty-eight of them together with their family members residing in the Herceg Novi municipality. The majority came from Trebinje, and then from the east Adriatic coast. They arrived at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century.*

**KEY WORDS:** *French administration, Trebinje, Podi, Mokrine, professions, age*

According to the Treaty of Tilsit (25 May 1807), the Bay of Kotor came under French control and their troops entered Herceg Novi on 29 July and remained there almost seven years – until 27 May 1814.<sup>1</sup>

At the time of the French rule, the territory of the Herceg Novi municipality covered a smaller area than in the previous period, because the French administration established the Bijela municipality, for which it was not determined which area it encompassed, whether it was only Bijela or the surrounding villages as well (and which ones if so).<sup>2</sup>

\* Autorka je viša arhivistkinja u penziji.

<sup>1</sup> L. Tomanović, *Events in the Bay of Kotor 1797-1814*, Dubrovnik, 1922

<sup>2</sup> M. Crnić Pejović, *Some data on the work of the municipal administration of Herceg Novi during the French rule 1807-1814*, Collection of works in the field of science, culture and art *Boka 20*, Herceg Novi, 1988, 171-185

In that period, the population of the Herceg Novi municipality was approximately 6,000.<sup>3</sup>

Since the French, during their rule in the Bay, were in a constant state of war across Europe, they needed significant material resources, but manpower as well, so the requirements of the French authorities in that sense were difficult to bear for the citizens of the Bay. What was especially hard to accept was the recruitment of sailors, so there was opposition to that action. Also, numerous taxes were levied on the people. In this manner, in addition to many other charges, the tax on exterior doors and windows was imposed as well.<sup>4</sup>

At this time, the civil authorities were subordinated to the military authorities and their needs. The mayor received daily requests for the provisions of accommodation and food, as well as transportation of military personnel, for the provision of manpower for the repair of forts and roads.<sup>5</sup> Every day, the mayor also received written orders for the recruitment of people for the French Navy, coastal artillery, national guard, town and village policemen. The municipal administration had to take care of the procurement of commodities which were hard to come by, prices of goods in shops, transport of mail, payment of pensions. In addition to the above, regular monthly reports on births, deaths and marriages had to be submitted.

One task which was within the competences of the municipal administration, and which was carried out under the order of the military administration was to keep records about the number, behaviour and movement of foreigners. Considering that the Bay of Kotor bordered Ottoman and Montenegrin territory, and since the military authorities played the decisive role, it is only natural that significant attention was paid to this matter. Of course, French citizens and French soldiers were not considered as foreigners.

The government's delegate from Kotor, Paulazzi, issued on 20 January 1809 a notice by which the population was warned and reminded about the regulations concerning foreigners who have temporary or permanent residence in the Bay of Kotor. The notice stated that each arrival of a person who did not have permanent residence in the Bay had to be registered within twenty-four hours upon arrival. A fine was prescribed for the host, innkeeper or landlord with whom the newcomer would stay, if they did not register

<sup>3</sup> Đ. Milović, *Data on the population, some professions, animal husbandry and armament for the area of the Topla komunitada (except Jošica and Bijela) from 1780*, Historical records, Titograd, 1956

<sup>4</sup> Same as point 2

<sup>5</sup> D. Radojičić, *Work of Herceg Novi masons from 1797 to 1813 on structures in the Bay of Kotor*. Collection of works from the scientific conference Unification of Montenegro and the Bay of Kotor 1813-1814, Titograd 1991, 247-253

him in the specified time. A first-time offender would pay 100 Venetian lire, and a repeat offender would be subjected to military laws.<sup>6</sup>

The fact that the military authorities checked the foreigners' stay and movements, and did so diligently, is confirmed by the following documents as well. In April 1812, the municipal administration, on the basis of an order by commander of Herceg Novi, Viala, issued a notice for the inhabitants living in the town and its surroundings, especially addressing innkeepers and landlords, that they must not provide lodging for an alien before informing the commander, i.e. receiving his approval for that. Offenders were subjected to military laws.<sup>7</sup>

That same year in August, Viala again ordered the mayor that all citizens must immediately inform the military commander about the arrival and stay of aliens, along with the time they intended to spend in the area.<sup>8</sup>

Based on the request of the government's delegate I. Tromba from Kotor addressed in October 1811 to the mayor of Herceg Novi, a list was created with the title *Forestieri che attrovansi di stazione ferme di piu anni circondario di Castel Nuovo* (aliens who spent multiple years living in the Herceg Novi district).<sup>9</sup>

The list delivered on the above request provides data on the place of birth, i.e. where the foreigner came from, place of residence in the Herceg Novi area, age, previous or current profession, and marital status. This document deserves attention because it gives an insight into the social structure of foreign nationals at the given time in this area and why they chose to live in the Herceg Novi area.

The majority of foreigners who lived in this area in 1811 came from Trebinje (there were ten), and then there were two from Zupci, and one from Albania, Montenegro<sup>10</sup> Kruševice<sup>11</sup>, Mokrin<sup>12</sup>, Mostar, Piran, Split, Šibenik, Rovinj each. For one of them, it can be indefinitely ascertained that he was from Sutorina, another from Piacenza, and regarding four of them, the place of birth is illegible.

The oldest foreigner who had been living there at the time of the list for nine years already was sixty-nine. This was Josip Jelić from Piran who was working as a servant (manual worker) in Herceg Novi where he lived

<sup>6</sup> State Archive of Montenegro Cetinje, section Herceg Novi, archive fund French rule (hereinafter AH FV) F.10,52

<sup>7</sup> AH FV 13,156,161

<sup>8</sup> AH FV 13, 398-400

<sup>9</sup> AH FV 13, 592-593

<sup>10</sup> The concrete place is not indicated

<sup>11</sup> This refers to Bajkove Kruševice which were a part of the Ottoman territory at the time

<sup>12</sup> Mokrine – this means that he was from the part of Mokrine which belonged to the Ottomans, not the Venetians

alone and was not married. By contrast, the youngest foreigners were only twelve. These were Boško (Mijat) Petrović from Trebinje who served in the house of Boško Matković,<sup>13</sup> and had been living in the area for six years already. His peer Luka (Vaso) (?) came from Mokrine three years ago and was working in the house of (?) Vukosavljević in Đenovići as a farmhand.<sup>14</sup>

Stefan (Luka) Tanasijević from Trebinje was sixteen, and Đuro (Mijo) Radović from Kruševica was eighteen. Both of them were farmhands probably working for some landlord in Podi where they had been living two and seven years respectively.

Five of the foreigners were aged twenty to thirty. So, Petar (Marko) Katarović (?) from Trebinje of twenty years of age had been living for a year in Podi, where he worked as a farmhand. In the same village and engaged in the same work was his fellow countryman Simo (†Marko) Gudelj aged twenty-five. Simo had been living in Podi for four years and was married and had a child. The one year older Tripo (Cvijeto) Ristić came in 1801 from Mostar and was working as a farmhand for Ilija Crnogorčević in Baošići, while Risto (†Simo) Zubac was a millworker in Podi. Risto was nineteen when he arrived in this area, and at the time of the list he was married and had no children.

Todor (†Kosto) Laković from Zupci was thirty and worked for Ilija Kvekić in Podi where he arrived seven years earlier. He was not married. His peer Gavilo (Stas?) Rosić from Trebinje had been living for five years in Podi, where he was a farmhand and was not married.

The thirty-one year old Izepo (†Grgur) Joković (? Iokonić) arrived from Split five years earlier and settled in Topla, where he worked as a gunsmith. He also started a family in Topla. Đuro (Šćepan) Šćepanović who was of the same age, from Trebinje, arrived two years earlier and worked as a farmhand in Podi.

Slightly older (32) was Drago (Luka) Bogdanović from Montenegro who lived in Sutorina<sup>15</sup> and worked as an innkeeper. He came to this area ten years earlier. It is interesting that he was amagliato in Castel Nuovo, piu pochi giorni – he had been married several days earlier in Herceg Novi.

Jovan (Batista) (†Nedeljko) Teras (?) from Rovinj, aged thirty-seven, arrived to the Herceg Novi area in 1791 as a Venetian soldier, and was working as a clerk at the time of the list. He was a family man and had children.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Illegible place name

<sup>14</sup> The surname of Luka, and of his landlord, is illegible, just like all the names written with a question mark

<sup>15</sup> It is unclear why an inhabitant of Sutorina is included in the list, since it was not under French administration, but the French Army had the right of way through Sutorina

<sup>16</sup> The number of children is not indicated anywhere. It is only stated when there is one child, and for the rest the plural *children* is used. Therefore, it was not possible to obtain data on the exact number of foreigners with their family members.

Nikola (†Staniša) Supeglav from Trebinje, son of a Rovinj native, had been living for twelve years in Topla, working as an innkeeper. He was married to a woman from Risan.

Regarding the former Venetian soldier Frederico (†Censere) (?), we know that he was thirty-nine and was not married, while the surname, place of birth, name of the landlord from Savina for whom he was working are difficult to read.

The forty year old Ilija (†Nikola) (R)učić from Trebinje had been living in the Herceg Novi area for eighteen years already and was a farmhand residing in Baošići, married with children. His peer Gavriilo (†Jovan (Ivan)) from (?) had been living in Topla since 1806. He was a tailor, married to a woman from Risan with whom he had children.

A gunsmith by profession and aged forty-three, Mihailo (†Petar) Petrović from Sutorina had been living in Topla for three years. He was married to a woman from Topla with whom he had children.

Two men aged forty-five came from Šibenik and Trebinje. The Šibenik native, Nikola (†Ivan) Bosić, had been living for eleven years in this area, more precisely in Podi, working as a farmhand and was not married. His peer Petar (†Todor) Persović (?), a cobbler by profession, had been living in Topla where he married a girl from Topla with whom he had children.

Nikola (†Vasilije?) from Rasso (?) was forty-six and had been living for five years in Savina with his wife and children, working as a farmhand.

The two fifty-year-olds came from different parts of the world. Ilija (†Kosto) Balesa (?) came three years earlier from Piacenza. He was a shoemaker living with his wife and daughter in Herceg Novi. The other one came from Albania in 1795, Kosto (†Terto) Vito (unintelligible) and was a goldsmith. He was a widower and lived with a son in Topla.

Matija (†Nikola) Zurević was a sanitation guard. He had been living in Topla for twelve years with his wife, a Topla native.

The Venetian soldier, Nedeljko (†Viktor) Nioleti came in 1783 from Fetta (?) as a thirty-two-year-old and settled in Topla by himself. At the time of the census, as a former soldier, he was engaged in agriculture.

The above stated shows that the majority of the foreign citizens, i.e. the persons who fell under this category at the time, and who were living in 1811 in the Herceg Novi municipality, came from Herzegovina, and then from places on the east Adriatic coast. The largest number of them lived in Topla and Podi.

At the time of their arrival to this area, some of them were very young – from a six-year-old child to those of advanced age, or more precisely of sixty years. At the time of the census, they had been living in the Herceg Novi municipality from one to twenty-eight years.

The majority of them were farmhands (thirteen), out of which three worked for specific landlords, while the others probably worked on their own farms or as hired hands. Four of them performed manual labour, and it is stated for one of them that he worked as a *servo* (servant) which also implied various manual activities.

There were six craft workers, if we count the millworker as well. There was a goldsmith, a cobbler, a tailor, a shoemaker and a gunsmith. Two of them were innkeepers, one was a sanitation guard, one a clerk, and it is unknown what one did because the text is unintelligible.

Out of the twenty-eight people listed here, half of them were married, mainly to girls from the place of living and from Risan.

It is a fact that out of the twenty-eight foreigners who lived in the Herceg Novi municipality in 1811, only one (the goldsmith) belonged to the wealthy class, while the artisans, innkeepers and the sanitation guard and the clerk were probably in a slightly better economic position because they had regular earnings. Among them, there is not a single sailor or merchant. The majority were farmhands and manual workers. Half of them did not start a family, either because of economic reasons or because they arrived at an advanced age. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the reason for their arrival, short, long or permanent residence in the Herceg Novi area at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century was exclusively economic in nature, or as the saying goes: they sought their fortune.

Marija CRNIĆ PEJOVIĆ

#### FOREIGN CITIZENS IN HERCEG NOVI MUNICIPALITY IN 1811

##### *Summary*

At the time of the French rule in the Bay of Kotor (1807-1814), records were kept on the foreigners residing on its territory.

During this period, the civil authorities were subordinated to the military authorities who adopted orders on recording foreigners. The persons who did not register a foreigner immediately and offer him lodging before receiving an approval from the military authorities were subjected to a fine and military laws.

On the basis of the list of foreigners from 1811, we find out that there were twenty-eight of them together with their family members residing in the Herceg Novi municipality. The majority came from Trebinje, and then from the east Adriatic

---

coast. They arrived at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century. The largest number settled in Topla and Podi. The youngest were twelve, and the oldest was sixty-nine. They had been living in the Herceg Novi area from one to twenty-eight years. Around half of them were engaged in agriculture and manual work, six were artisans including a goldsmith, and there were innkeepers and other professions. Half of them were married.

Based on the data from the list, none of them was particularly wealthy, except probably the goldsmith, so it can be concluded that they came to the Herceg Novi municipality to seek their fortune.