Tambov Region’s Archives: Research Resource

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Tambov region is one of the subjects of Russian Federation, located in the Central Federal District.
Tambov as a fortress was founded in 1636 to protect the southern borders of Russia from the raids of the Tatars.
In 1779 Tambov became the administrative center of Tambov governorship.

By the beginning of the 19th c., Tambov province was one of the largest in European Russia in terms of area and population.
Tambov province was the traditional agrarian region of Russian Empire.

Tambov peasants

The main house of the Chicherin’s manor, Karaul.
After the 1917 revolution, numerous territorial changes took place in Soviet Russia, and in 1934 Tambov region was restored as an independent administrative unit.
A well-known event of Russian civil war in Tambov region was the anti-Bolshevik peasant uprising “Antonovshchina” (1920-1921)
The history of Tambov region was associated with the names of prominent statesmen and representatives of Russian culture.

- **Gavriil Derzhavin**, poet, Governor of Tambov (1786-1788)
- **Sergei Rachmaninov**, composer, lived for a long time in the Tambov estate Ivanovka
- **Georgy Chicherin**, People’s Commissar for Foreign Affairs in the Soviet government (1918-1930)
All periods of Tambov region’s history are reflected in the archive collections

• The beginning of systematic archival activity was the work of Tambov Provincial Scientific Archive Commission, created in 1884.

• This commission collected and systematized historical documents, concentrating them in a single archives. For this purpose, the archives of local institutions were sorted out, documents from private archives were examined.
• In 1918-1919 this archive collection was transferred to the newly created Tambov provincial archives.
• During World War II main materials from Tambov archives were evacuated.
• Now Tambov archive collection is one of the largest collection of the Central Federal District in terms of the composition and content of documents.
• The preserved archival documents reflect not only Tambov history but also the all-Russian history since the 17th c. till the 21st c.
The State Archive of Tambov Region:
https://tambovarchiv.ru/
more than 3.9 thousand funds containing over 1.3 million files
Guide to the State Archive of Tambov Region


• Information about the composition and content of the funds of the Archives.

• The documents of the foundations reflect the history of the political, socio-economic and cultural development of Tambov region from the second half of the 17\textsuperscript{th} c. till the beginning of the 21\textsuperscript{st} c.
The most important groups of documents:

• Documents of local authorities and administration (1719-2005);
• Bodies and court institutions, prosecutors and notaries (1764-1999);
• Military institutions (1761-1948);
• Statistical, financial and credit institutions (1779-2000);
• Industrial management bodies, industrial enterprises and construction organizations (1832-2006);
• Land surveying and land management institutions, agriculture, forestry and water management (1696-1992);
• Communication institutions (1846-1990);
• Institutions of science, culture and education (1609-2003);
• Public health authorities (1799-2002);
• Religious institutions (1636-1923);
• Institutions Provisional government (1917-1918);
• Public organizations (1864-1996);
• Personal funds (1627-2006);
• Photographic documents (1860-2001);
• Soundtracks (1957-1999);
Some documentary online-collections

- Exhibition of archival documents dedicated to the 240th anniversary of the formation of Tambov governorship
  https://tambovarchiv.ru/node/229
• Tambov province between two revolutions: February 1917 - March 1918

https://tambovarchiv.ru/node/180
Some publications of archive collections

• “From Moscow must go ... to Tambov”

Materials on the ties of Russian poet Mikhail Lermontov with Tambov, reflected in memoirs and archival documents.

Description of the most valuable documents from the main funds – Morshansk district and provincial Zemstvo assemblies, the personal fund of Vladimir Vernadsky (1863-1945), famous Russian scientist and Tambov public figure
• “Antonovshchina”: Peasant uprising in Tambov province in 1920-1921

The most complete collection – some 700 archive documents. This publication contains documents of rebels and the Bolshevik formations on the history of the anti-Bolshevik uprising.
The results of archive research in Tambov have been reflected in publications of a number of foreign historians

- **Steven L. Hoch**, Professor of History at Washington State University
• Regis Baty, professor of history at Strasbourg University
The State Archives on Socio-Political History of Tambov Region: [http://gaspito.ru/](http://gaspito.ru/)

- 5578 funds containing 810429 files (01.01.2020):
  - The CPSU and other political “paper” documents;
  - Files of personal origin, including letters, diaries, photos and memoirs;
  - Periodicals and books;
  - Photo, video, phono, CD files.
The Bolshevik appeal to the peasant rebels, 1921

In times of collectivization, 1929
Data on Tambov Region livestock, 1938

World War II harvesting, 1944
Military hospitals deployment, 1941-1945

POW camp N 188 (Rada), 1943
Personal card of a Jewish boy evacuated from Minsk to Tambov, July 14, 1941

Enrolment to the Komsomol in a rural subregion, 1944
A list of collective state farm (kolkhoz) chairmen, 1942

A great surgeon and the Archbishop Lukas (V.F. Voino-Yasenetski) and Tambov clergy, 1944
An interrogation of Hungarian chaplain who tortured the Red Army scout Tamara Derunets (1920 – 1942), 1947 (these files were transmitted from the Federal Security Services departmental archives)

Personal card of a head of Tambov Regional Department of Internal Affairs Major-General A. Makhankov, 1950
Washing machine production, Tambov, 1962

The “Democratic Russia” at the march, Tambov, 1989
WW2 letters and photos collection

The 20\textsuperscript{th} c. everyday life in photos
A page from Olga Kharina’s scrapbook, 1915-1918 (V. Dyachkov’s collection)

Pages from a peasant’s notebook, 1910-1935 (V. Litovski collection)
A page from Ivan Makeev’s memoirs on 1914-1930 written in mid-1960s (V. Dyachkov’s collection)

A page from Nina Peregud’s diary, 1940-1944 (V. Dyachkov’s collection)
A letter from prison, 1939 (A. Allenov’s collection)

Listening the radio, 1933 (V. Orlova’s collection)
A page from a priest’s diary written in jail, 1925 (TRegLHM)

A page from Vladimir Khersonski’s diary, 1940-1943 (TStMPI)
The stuff of a Soviet field camp for the Nazi POWs, Czechoslovakia, June, 1945 (TSU student’s collection)

A page from Nikolay Nikiforov’s diary, 1945-1946 (V. Ermakov’s collection)
Welcome to Tambov archives!