

The present dissertation is devoted to the tithes trials in the Kobylin parish in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Bielsk land of the Podlachian voivodeship, dioecese of Lutsk). The tithes were paid in the form of sheaves of rye, barley and oats. The parish of Kobylin included only villages inhabited by noblemen who were small landowners and cultivated their lands by themselves. The parish priests took parishioners that had not paid these tithes to noble courts. In the first chapter I have described the history of the tithes in the Kingdom of Poland as well as in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth until 1795 and the changing legal framework of them. The second chapter is devoted to the social structure of the Bielsk land, the history and organization of the local noble and church courts, and finally the legal costs in both jurisdictions. Subsequently, I have described the economic condition of this parish, the parish priests and their relatives. Very important questions are also wealth of parishioners and their relations with the parish priests and their families. Finally, the fourth chapter concerns the key institutions of Old Polish legal procedure in the light of trials and verdicts of noble courts.