

The Russian Aristocracy and the Country Estates: A. Olenin and «Prijutino» (2)

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A young Russian aristocrat, Alexis Olenin returned to Russia from Dresden in 1785 and served in the Army for about ten years. During that time he married Elizabeth Poltoratskij, and with her dowry he bought an estate, not so large, in the suburbs of Saint Petersburg.

After this military service he became a civil official. He worked energetically in the State Council in the reigns of Alexander the First and Nicholas the First. In 1811 Olenin was appointed the first director of the Imperial Public Library and a few years later the President of Academy of Fine Arts.

In private life he built a country house “Prijutino” on his estate. Prijutino had several buildings of various uses, a beautiful landscape garden, and woods.

I would like to consider why he wanted to have his own country house and to determine if his intent was fulfilled or not.