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**THE CONCEPT OF MARRIAGE AND THE MANNER
OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT ON THE TERRITORY
OF UKRAINE WITHIN THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE
(XIX – EARLY XX CENTURY)**

Nowadays development of the Ukrainian family undergoes many new changes which are unusual for the mentality of our nation. Firstly, such transformation is connected with the globalization of the society, depreciation of the initial purpose of the family foundation, which was set by our ancestors, that is the respect of the married couple to each other, the respect between parents and their children, preservation of Ukrainian family values. In order to avoid the excess of the democratization of the family life and the bad consequences that can happen on this basis, modern scientists and legislators have to refer to historical sources. Those are good for taking the basic rules of improving family relationships and the Ukrainian family legislation in particular. Historical analysis gives an opportunity to state the fact of originality and unicity of the family law in Ukraine and considering the past mistakes to carry up future possibilities.

The Laws of the Russian Empire were enacted on the territory of Ukraine, which was under Russia guidance in 1840-1842.

The first book regulating family rights and duties consisted of three parts, the first one was called "About the marriage." According to this part there existed only religious kind of marriage. The registration of marriages was held only in churches. The Marriage Law of the Russian Empire did not provide the existence of social institutions where marriages could be registered without the church. Thus, the state with the help of the church was trying to exert control over marriage legal relationships. The marriage was preceded by a series of procedures that the couples and a priest, who crowned them, had to do. Marriage rules of the Laws of the Russian Empire in 1832 did not involve the engagement and the wedding which were an obligatory part of a marriage process according to the Ukrainian customs.