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**DURMISHKHAN ZHURULI AND
GEORGIAN SOCIETY
(THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY –
THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY)**

Giorgi Sosiashvili

Gori State Teaching University
Gori, Georgia

ABSTRACT

The historical residence of the Zhuruli family was Ksani Gorge. This is exactly the place from where the resettlement of the above-mentioned clan to other parts of Georgia begins. A part of the Zhuruli family settled in the Small Liakhvi Gorge, specifically, in the village of Arbo. In the 'Book of Duty Army' (1774) several representatives of the Zhuruli family were mentioned in this village. At the beginning of the 19th century, Shalva Zhuruli, who lived in Arbo, together with other representatives of the feudal aristocracy, actively engaged in the fight that was meant to free the country from Russian violence. Shalva Zhuruli was arrested together with others involved in the Mtiuleti rebellion of 1804.

Shalva Zhuruli had several children, including Malkhazi, Levani, Durmishkhani, and Gaiane. At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, Durmishkhan Zhuruli greatly contributed to the development of Georgian society. His name is related to numerous national events. At different times, he worked as a police officer in Gori and Surami. He also served as a Chief of Batumi Police. Durmishkhan was actively involved in the activities concerned with the return of Adjara to the motherland. He was engaged in negotiations with Sherif-Beg Khimshiashvili following the instructions from the government. Durmishkhan Zhuruli had a close relationship with the remarkable representatives of the Georgian Society. Durmishkhan believed that the lack of education was the only reason why Georgians were left behind. He advocated for the establishment of schools, which is demonstrated in his articles published in the newspaper Iveria. Family members of Durmishkhan Zhuruli duly continued the business of the founder of the Batumi Organization of the Society for the Spreading Literacy among Georgians.

Keywords: History of Georgia, Russo-Turkish War (1877-1878), Durmishkhan Zhuruli.