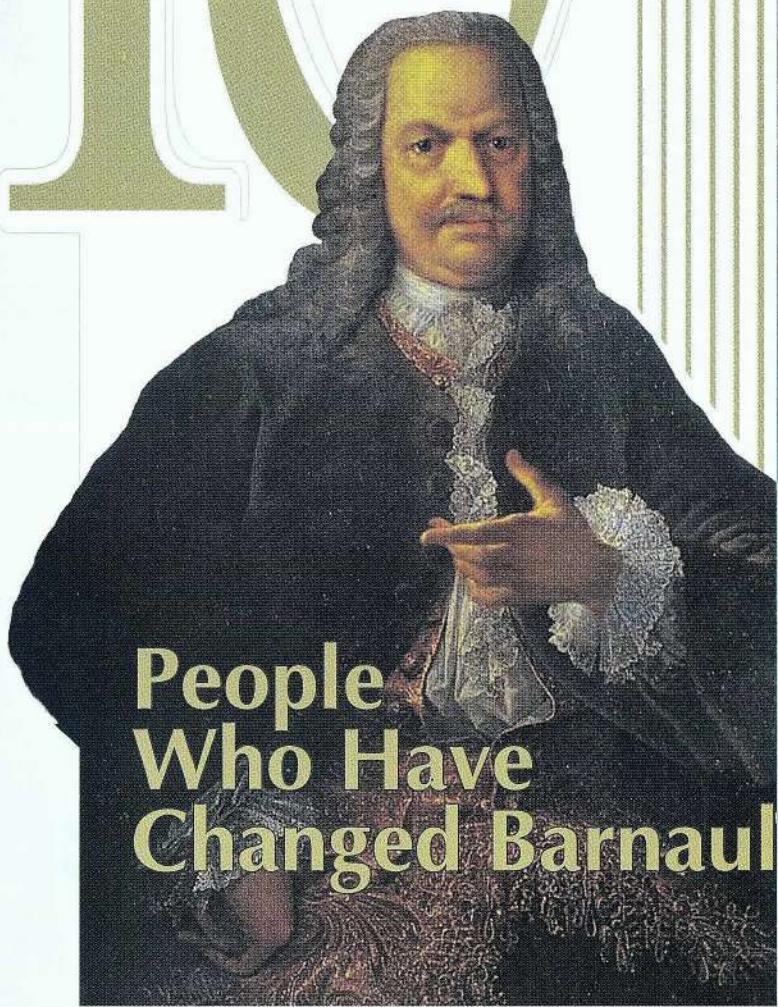


# 10



**People  
Who Have  
Changed Barnaul**

# Barnaul. From the Very Beginning

What makes the city a city is not only the streets or the public gardens or the squares or the houses, but also the people. The more honorable the people who have changed the city, the better and more attractive that city becomes.

Barnaul is blessed with eventful and even fantastic biography. It became what it is because of Russian progressive and forward-thinking intellectuals – scientists, engineers, mining officers, writers – all those described in the brochure.

These characters are people of different nationalities and faiths who lived in different time. However, all of them have significantly changed Barnaul, its industry, education, science and culture.

Close to three hundred years have passed since the foundation of the city, and our ears can still hear the voices of these great representatives of the past in every corner of it.

The Local History Museum exhibits the model of a perfect two-cylinder “fire-driven machine” designed by mechanicus Polzunov, while the N.M. Yadrintsev Library has the complete edition of Yadrintsev’s works. Full-color photographs with Barnaul sites taken by a unique photographer Sergei Ivanovich Borisov give us an opportunity to look back at Barnaul when it was just entering the 20th century. Sukhovs’ trading house is not only an architectural landmark of the late 19th century, but also a legacy of Dmitry Nikiforovich Sukhov, a town governor, who donated his governor’s salary to social projects. To pay respect to Pyotr Kozmich Frolov, a bust has been erected on Krasnoarmeisky Prospekt recently, thus symbolizing that he still remains in our memory.



## Akinfy Nikitich Demidov

1678-1745



A Russian entrepreneur, owner of mining works and pioneer in Ural and Altai mining industry who launched the Barnaul Silver Smelting Works among others and thus Barnaul was born.

Historians ascribe many things to this talented industrialist – even illegal silver coining. Yet, Akinfy Demidov is mostly a man who discovered Altai polymetallic deposits and created the first in Russia reference collection of ores and minerals. He never visited Altai, but here he ran his mines and launched the Kolyvano-Voskresensky and the Barnaul Silver Smelting Works (the latter was built in the mouth of the Barnaulka River in 1744). The construction of the works contributed to the development of the town, which received the status of a mining one in 1771.

Mining in Altai surely offered big prospects to Demidov, but his strategic genius and high impact decisions allowed him to develop the industry, to settle the eastern frontiers of the Russian Empire and to top up the treasury with Altai silver.

Akinfy Demidov died on his way to the Siberian plants. He was buried in Tula, the city of his birth. The International Demidov's Foundation established in Barnaul presents Altai Krai industrialists and artists with honorary awards for major contribution to the development of the region.

## Ivan Ivanovich Polzunov

1728-1766



An outstanding Russian inventor who created the first steam engine in Russia and the first two-cylinder steam engine in the world. His invention gave rise to the development of heat power engineering in Russia as early as in the beginning of the 18th century.

Thanks to his extraordinary mathematical abilities, a soldier's son went down in history as an Altai engineer, pioneer in modernization of metals production technology and inventor of an all-purpose steam engine.

Russian mining industry (from metal smelting to forging) of that time were dependent on water power. Barnaul genius managed to implement his ideas on mechanization of labor with fire-driven machines. In spring of 1763, the Petersburg commission praised the Polzunov's project of a "fire-driven machine": it was an unprecedented (by the standards of that time) perfect two-cylinder construction, a heat power station, in fact, able to supply the works with energy. However, the engineer died of consumption a few days before it was launched. 43 days of work showed a profit of 12,418 rubles, but the machine soon broke down and was brought to a stop.

No one knows for sure where Polzunov was buried, but it was probably somewhere in Svodody Square where a bust to the inventor was erected in 1987.

## Pyotr Kozmich Frolov

1775-1839



A mining officer, head of the Kolyvano-Voskresensky Works and Tomsk civil governor who created a number of projects designed to develop transport systems and technologies of mining production and made Barnaul cultured and well-educated.

He established the first in Altai paper mill, printing house and library as well as the first in West Siberia weather station and magnetic observatory. He initiated the creation of architectural complex which included the buildings of a mining hospital, an almshouse with a church, a mining school with an orphanage and an obelisk marking the 100th anniversary of mining industry in Altai.

It was Frolov along with Gebler who established the Barnaul Museum (today's Local History Museum) where the collections of minerals, books and mechanism models – including Polzunov's "fire-driven machine" – were first gathered in one place.

In 1809 Pyotr Frolov built the first in Russia two-kilometer cast-iron railway between the Zmeinogorsk Mine and the Zmeyerovsky Silver Smelting Works. Technically, it surpassed the railway that was already built in England. He also developed and implemented new technologies for mineral prospecting, slag-metal separation and mechanization of mining.

Frolov's honesty, integrity and morality contributed to the rapid development of Barnaul from a mining settlement into a cultured and civilized city.

Pyotr Kozmich Frolov spent his last years in Petersburg. He died on December 10, 1839.

## Friedrich August von Gebler

1781-1850



A corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, natural scientist, geographer and doctor who established the first in Siberia Natural History Museum (today's Local History Museum). He was the pioneer in Altai pharmacopoeia and medicine.

In 1809 at the invitation of the Russian government a German scientist and doctor came to the Kolyvano-Voskresensky Mining District. Once he received Russian citizenship, Friedrich August von Gebler was renamed to "Fyodor Vasilievich Gebler".

Barnaul had become home for Gebler: here a German with Siberian soul wrote 14 research papers on medicine, natural science, botany and mining. He traveled deep into Central Altai where he marked a number of ridges on the map, found the source of the Katun River, measured Belukha Mount, described Altai nature and gathered mineralogical, zoological and botanical collections. These collections started the Local History Museum in 1823.

As a doctor of Barnaul Central Hospital Gebler studied local medicinal herbs and waters. He was the first to apply principles of occupational safety and health, preventive healthcare, to factory workers. He taught doctor's apprentices, improved hospital services and developed the concept of what today is called "home care services".

F.V. Gebler died in Barnaul on March 9, 1850. A Barnaul street and the largest glacier of Belukha Mount are named after the scientist.

## Stepan Ivanovich Gulyaev

1804-1888



A Russian historian, ethnographer, folklorist and inventor who studied Altai culture and collected traditional songs, bylina epic poems and fairy tales.

There should have been no link between folklore heritage and mineralogy, agricultural plant breeding and ethnography. However, this is only the first impression. Once he questioned rural craftswomen on the best-kept secrets of natural dyes for textiles, Gulyaev developed the technology of fast dyeing of sheepskin and made Barnaul Sheepskin Fur Factory famous throughout the country. Since 1866 Lapin's workshop for shearling coats produced its goods using Gulyaev's dyeing techniques: willow bark extract and potassium chromate were used to dye sheepskin black. It is known that Vladimir Romanov, Grand Duke of Russia, and Nadezhda Krupskaya sported these shearling coats.

Gulyaev studied the healing potential of radon springs in Belokurikha and built a medical center there.

He planted first test plots to breed sugar beet and tobacco varieties. In 1862 he established a public library at his own expense. He supported the initiative to establish a high school and university in Barnaul. Still, historians and regional ethnographers believe that his greatest accomplishment was folklore studies: he collected songs, bylinas and tales. Altai Krai State Archive houses his archives.

## Nikolai Mikhailovich Yadrintsev

1842-1894



A writer, public figure, explorer of Siberia and Central Asia, archaeologist and ethnographer who initiated the establishment of Tomsk University and the West Siberian Subdivision of the Russian Geographical Society.

Nikolai Yadrintsev, a staunch advocate for the scientific development of Siberian region, launched a fundraising campaign to open the first university in Siberia in Tomsk. They started to build the university in 1880 and it was opened in 1888.

In the 1870s-1880s N.M. Yadrintsev made complex expeditions to Altai and one was aimed at finding an ancient capital of the Mongol Empire of Genghisids. During these expeditions he collected botanical and ethnographic materials, drew maps of Lake Teletskoye and the Chuya River with its tributaries, conducted anthropological researches and helped settlers to integrate into Siberia. His works on resettlement are widely known.

He issued and edited *Vostochnoye Obozreniye* (lit. Eastern Review) newspaper that had *Sibirsky Sbornik* (lit. Siberian Collection) supplement, the first publication on Siberian local history, since 1882 in Petersburg. In 1894 Yadrintsev was appointed as a head of the Statistical Office of the Altai Mining District Administration at his personal request. He came to Barnaul, but died suddenly. He was buried at Nagornoye Cemetery. Streets in Barnaul, Omsk, Novosibirsk, Tomsk and Irkutsk are named after Yadrintsev.

## Dmitry Nikiforovich Sukhov

UNKNOWN DOB - 1893



A merchant of the top guild, patron engaged in social development projects and Barnaul governor (since 1882).

Dmitry Nikiforovich originated the tradition of patron town governors who would not use their political clout to lobby their commercial interests. It is known that Dmitry Sukhov, a leading Barnaul entrepreneur, donated a part of his income from million fortune, two factories and a trading house to charity. When he became a town governor, he donated the governor's salary (nearly 2,600 rubles) to the public, created the Primary Education Welfare Society and bought grain for the city. He created a "trend" in Barnaul of the late 19th - early 20th centuries: a wealthy man who became a town governor was to donate his means and salary for the benefit of the public which was kind of a voluntary vow of community service given by a patron.

Thanks to him, there appeared a classical high school and a new cemetery on Moskovsky Trakt in Barnaul as well as chain stores (today they would be called "welfare stores") in Barnaul, Biysk and Kamen-on-Ob. His son Vasily also was a town governor who continued a family tradition and donated his 3,000 ruble-salary to hospital.

## Sergei Ivanovich Borisov

1859(?) - 1935



A Russian photographer, author of a famous Altai photography series made during his ethnographic photography expeditions in the late 19th - early 20th centuries. Hundreds of portraits and panoramic photos which introduced the beauties of Altai nature to the world have survived to this day.

Borisov was born in Simbirsk, worked in a theater, but when in the late 1880s he found himself in Barnaul, Sergei Ivanovich went into photography. His photographs were mounted on the original passe-partout with his name written on it and included portraits of local people, photos of Zmeinogorsk and Barnaul industrial facilities as well as genre photographs depicting life of indigenous Altaians taken during his expeditions beginning in 1907.

A series of 50 original postcards published in Stockholm introduced Altai to the Europeans. A photographer was invited by *Path-Journal* newsreel to give the Parisians lectures on our region which he illustrated with photographic slides, using a "magic lantern". Barnaul dwellers saw this series a bit later, however, the presentation was much more spectacular. The People's House hosted the premiere of the series on January 14, 1911. He bought a projector and hand-colored the slides specifically for the project.

Not only Russian, but also foreign companies printed series of his Barnaul and Altai Mountains postcards. In the 1920s - 1930s he worked in an association of photographers and a diploma and badge of honor "Five-Year Shock Worker" were awarded to him for his professionalism. The legacy of Sergei Borisov is much more than commemorative photos: he managed to "linger on fair moment".

## Aleksandr Adolfovich Lesnevsky

1866-1934



A boundary engineer, map maker, head of the drawing office of the Altai District, town governor, cultural figure and the owner of famous Lesnevsky's House.

In 1907 Aleksandr Lesnevsky drew a detailed 75-page topographic map of the Altai District which showed a network of reference geodetic points, Altai relief, vegetation and soil. Lesnevsky managed to get lithographic engine presses for the Altai office which led to the development of map printing in Barnaul. Before that maps were printed in Tomsk.

In 1907 Aleksandr Lesnevsky supported by the Barnaul Duma deputies established the Telephone Company, the first in Barnaul telephone exchange with 127 subscribers. Lesnevsky organized the Altai Exploration Society and the Drama Art Lovers Society. His mansion on 56 Polzunova Street became the stage for his amateur theater company. All performances directed by Aleksandr Lesnevsky were charity events. During World War I his mansion housed the Committee for Assistance to Refugees.

Once his mansion was nationalized in 1917, Lesnevsky, its former owner, moved to Novonikolayevsk (today's Novosibirsk) where he died of a heart attack 17 years later.

## Viktor Ivanovich Vereshchagin

1871-1956



A teacher, botanist, local historian, explorer of Altai, associate of the Tomsk University Herbarium and pioneer in the development of children's tourism in Altai.

Once he graduated from Petersburg University, Viktor Vereshchagin came to Barnaul where he became a teacher of Natural Science in a non-classical secondary school, worked in the Local History Museum, established the Botanical Department in this museum and became a member of the Altai Subdivision of the Russian Geographical Society. His numerous expeditions into Altai provided us with invaluable information on biocoenosis, belt type pine forests, steppes and peatlands; he gathered minerals, specimens of flora and fauna. Vereshchagin discovered 50 species of plants unknown in Altai before and 6 plants totally unknown to the science of his day. 5 species of plants and 2 species of insects are named after the scientist.

Viktor Vereshchagin is a pioneer of educational tourism for children who organized the 1st Altai Local History Conference (1925) and developed tourist routes for summer vacation trips of senior school students. The list made by Vereshchagin included excursions to the Southern and Southwest Altai. In 1947 he was awarded a Ph.D. in Biology without the requirement to pass Ph.D. defense. He is an author of 40 research papers and an honorary member of the Altai Subdivision of the Russian Geographical Society.



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Отпечатано в «ОАО «ИПП «Алтай»  
656043, г. Барнаул, ул. Короленко, 105  
(3852) 63-37-23, 63-34-87  
e-mail: [info@ipp-altai.ru](mailto:info@ipp-altai.ru), <http://www.ipp-altai.ru/>  
Заказ № 1664. Тираж 1 000 экз.  
Дизайн, верстка: Мажаева Е.В., отдел по развитию туризма администрации г. Барнаула.  
Тексты: Попова Т.А., Карпова Л.Г., Богданова А.Н.  
Корректурa: Тихонова О.В., Болтнева Е.В.  
Перевод на английский язык: Смотряева К.С.  
Фото: из фотоархивов КГБУ ГХМАК, отдела по развитию туризма администрации г. Барнаула  
Официальный сайт города Барнаула: [barnaul.org](http://barnaul.org)  
Барнаулское туристическое бюро: [barnaul.amic.ru](http://barnaul.amic.ru)

Published by ОАО IPP Altai  
105 Korolenko Ul. Barnaul 656043  
+7 (3852) 63-37-23, 63-34-87  
e-mail: [info@ipp-altai.ru](mailto:info@ipp-altai.ru), <http://www.ipp-altai.ru/>  
Print Order No. 1664. 1,000 Copies Printed  
Design: Ye.V. Mazhayeva, Department of Tourism of Barnaul City Administration  
Text: T.A. Popova, L.G. Karpova, A.N. Bogdanova  
Proofreading: O.V. Tikhonova, Ye.V. Boltneva  
Translation into English: K.S. Smotryaeva  
Photo: photo archives provided by Altai Krai State Museum of Art, Department of Tourism of Barnaul City Administration  
Barnaul Official Website: [barnaul.org](http://barnaul.org)  
Barnaul Tourist Office: [barnaul.amic.ru](http://barnaul.amic.ru)

