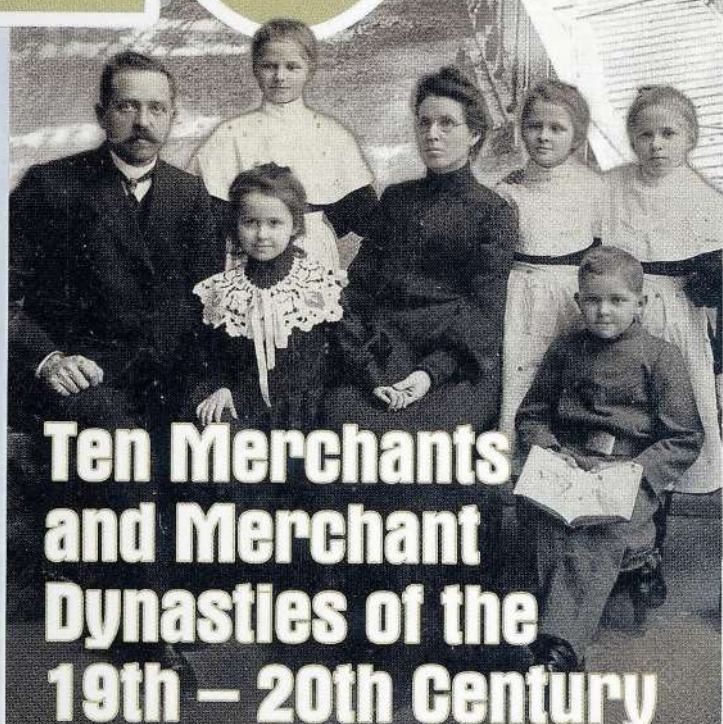


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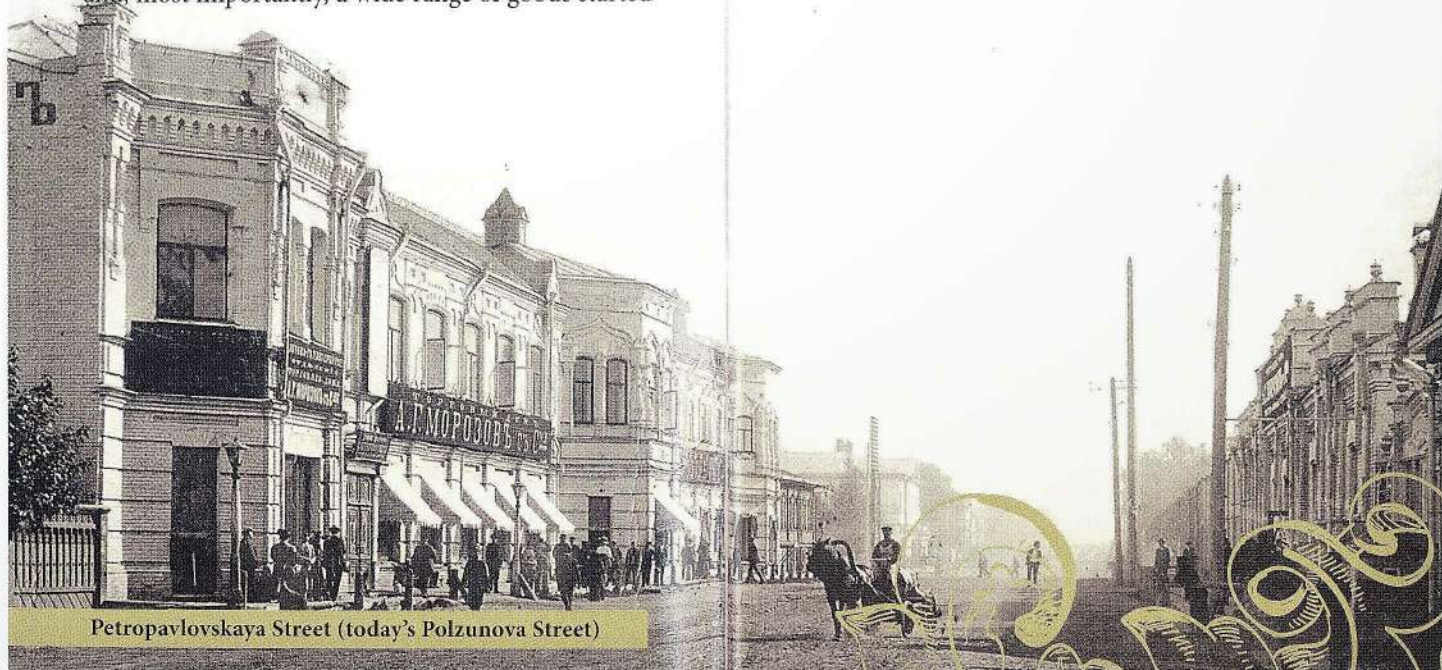
**Ten Merchants  
and Merchant  
Dynasties of the  
19th – 20th Century**



# BARNAUL - THE CITY OF MERCHANTS

When it comes to Barnaul's history, the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century can be characterized as the merchant era. After the state-operated silver-melting plant was closed down in 1893, commerce became the driving force of the city's economy. Barnaul merchants were buying more and more grain for export to northern and eastern Siberia and Ural region. At the same time, they were involved in selling textiles, clothing, footwear, farming equipment and alcoholic products. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there was a dramatic increase in the buy-in of dairy butter for European export. However, mostly Danish, German and English entrepreneurs were involved in said operations. While the late 19<sup>th</sup> century saw small shops as primary shopping venues, the first major shopping centers with electrical lighting, mirror display cases and, most importantly, a wide range of goods started

to appear in early 20th century. Among the first were Smirnov's, Morozov's, the Sukhov brothers' and Polyakov's (*Krasny* (lit. red) *Department Store*) shopping centers. While by late 19<sup>th</sup> century the yearly trade turnover was around 6.5 million rubles, in 1913 it reached nearly 20 million rubles. At the same time, Barnaul merchant class was investing in a variety of industries and businesses: flour-milling, winemaking, brewing, lumber, fur and sheepskin production, felt-boot production, brickworks, leather production, gold and salt mining. The merchant class took an active part in city government affairs as members of the city duma (lit. *council*). Some of the famous entrepreneurs, like Dmitry and Vasily Sukhov, Ivan Platonov, Ivan Polyakov, Mikhail Strakhov, became mayors. Most of Barnaul merchants sponsored educational institutions, hospitals as well as donated to the Orthodox Church.



Petropavlovskaya Street (today's Polzunova Street)

## THE SUKHOV FAMILY

The biggest merchant family in Barnaul of the late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century

The first mentions of the Sukhov family affairs date back to 1850, when Nikifor Trifonovich Sukhov constructed a wooden building in the city market. The building would later be known as "Sukhov's." Nikifor Sukhov was also the owner of a number of small industrial facilities: a brickworks, a tan-yard and a candle-making facility. In 1880, he built what was the biggest department store at that time – a red-brick two-story building on Malo-Tobolskaya Street. Nikifor's son Dmitry took over as his father's successor. Dmitry was a merchant of the 1<sup>st</sup> guild, and in late 19<sup>th</sup> century he was the owner of the most important real estate in Barnaul, estimated at 51 thousand rubles. He left his children 4 million rubles worth of inheritance. After their father passed away in 1893, they founded the "D.N. Sukhov's sons" trading house. They expanded the leather production plant – its products won prizes at Russian national exhibitions. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the construction of a wine and grocery store on Moskovsky Prospekt (today's first floor of "The Seventh Continent" department store). In 1910, there were four Sukhov families living in Barnaul with a total of 32 family members. Many members of the family were elected for the city дума while Dmitry Nikiforovich and Vasily Dmitriyevich became mayors. The Sukhov family donated to the church, public education and health needs. Vasily Dmitriyevich made the most significant donations and was awarded a title of an honorary citizen.



The Sukhovs: Yevdokiya Dmitriyevna (standing) and Pavla Dmitriyevna



Dmitry Nikiforovich



Vasily Dmitriyevich

## PRANG

Matvei Bogdanovich (1830-1890) – owner of the first soda plant in Russia

The first soda plant in Russia appeared in Barnaul in 1864. It was founded by two brothers – Ivan Bogdanovich Prang and Yegor Bogdanovich Prang, mining engineers and colonel and lieutenant-colonel respectively. However, it was their younger brother Matvei – an artist and a Saint Petersburg Academy of Arts graduate – who took the lead in establishing the plant. During his stay in Western Europe in 1862, Matvei studied manufacturing methods of soda. While travelling Altai, he discovered that Glauber's salt in Big Mormyshanskoye lake in Altai steppe can be used as raw material for producing soda. Although his brothers established the plant, Matvei was the one managing the production process, and in 1870 the older brothers handed over the ownership of the plant to Matvei. The plant also produced soap. Prang's plant was soon famous all over Russia, and Dmitry Mendeleev, the great Russian chemist, even mentions the plant in his works. All kinds of manufacturers from all over Siberia bought Barnaul soda to use it in their production: soap-makers, leather production facilities, fur and sheepskin makers, glass manufacturers. An entire settlement sprung up near the plant with living quarters for the workers (around 80 were employed at the plant) and their families, clerks. A school and a bathhouse were running in there as well. Prang's soda was displayed at national exhibitions of art and industry in Moscow in 1882 and in Nizhny Novgorod in 1896. At the Moscow exhibition, Matvei Prang was awarded a medal "For founding the first and the only soda plant in Russia and for contributing to the development of the soap-making and other industries in Russia." After Matvei Prang passed away in 1890, Yulia Avgustovna Prang, his widow, managed the plant. She was able to secure a position as a merchant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> guild. In 1907, the "Lyubimov, Solve and Co" company bought the Barnaul plant and closed it down, thus getting rid of competition.



An advertisement of Prang's soda plant

## PLATONOV

**Konstantin Pavlovich (1812-1893) –  
“Vodka King of Altai,”  
founder of Itkul Distillery and Barnaul Distillery**

Konstantin Pavlovich Platonov, a nobleman by birth, was a government official in Altai Mining Administration Board since 1846. After retiring in the 1860s, he went into private business. In 1864, he partnered with fellow retired government officials Lyapin and Yaroslavtsev to build a flour mill in Zudilovo in Barnaul District. The mill produced up to 985 tons of flour a year. In 1868 he partnered with Grigory Tetentiyevich Badiyin, a merchant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> guild, to build the Itkul Distillery in the village of Sokolovo of Biysk District. For 25 years the Itkul Distillery was the sole manufacturer of alcohol in Altai. While in 1869 the distillery produced 51 thousand buckets of alcohol, in 1890s the amount increased to 200 thousand. Nearly 100 workers were employed at the distillery. In 1869 Platonov partners with Badiyin once again to open a distillery in Barnaul that used Itkul alcohol to produce vodka and various liqueurs. The Platonov family were the most prominent spirit merchants in all of Altai District. In 1896, Barnaul Distillery received a bronze medal at Nizhny Novgorod Exhibition of Art and Industry while Itkul Distillery received a diploma “For contributing to the development of wine-making industry in remote regions of Russia.” In late 1870s, Ivan Platonov (1857 – early 1920s), Konstantin’s son, took over the family business. Itkul Distillery and Zudilovo flour mill were modernized under his management. He was also the one to build a private electrical power plant in the center of Barnaul in 1900 that powered many institutions and private homes. The Platonov family funded the construction of a school and a church in Sokolovo. Ivan Platonov was elected mayor of Barnaul in 1898-1901 and 1911-1912, was a great philanthropist, donating money for public health and education and overall city improvement.



I.K. Platonov (center), the owner of Itkul Distillery,  
K.P. Platonov (first row second from the left) with  
a group of workers. Early 1870s.

## FEDULOV

**Ivan Innokentiyevich (1833-1907) –  
one of the most prominent entrepreneurs  
in Barnaul in late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century**

Ivan Innokentiyevich Fedulov was a Moscow commoner by birth who travelled to Altai to become the manager of a flour mill in the village of Povalikha in Barnaul District. The mill belonged to Pelageya Ivanovna Shchegolyova, a merchant woman. After she passed away in 1871, in her will she left almost everything in her possession to Ivan Fedulov. Not only did it include the mill, but also a two-story stone house and a liquor store in Barnaul as well as goldfields. All of it amounted to 175 thousand rubles in silver, which allowed Fedulov to become a guild merchant. Fedulov’s primary business was flour milling and selling grain, although he was involved in liquor business to some extent as well. In 1896, the flour from Povalikha mill received a bronze medal at Nizhny Novgorod Exhibition of Art and Industry. Fedulov’s sons Pyotr and Innokenty founded the “I.I. Fedulov and Sons” trading house. Pyotr Ivanovich, a trained engineer handled all of the business affairs. The flour mill in Povalikha was modernized under his management in early 20<sup>th</sup> century – flour production increased to nearly 16380 tons a year. Innokenty Ivanovich was a doctor while Ivan Ivanovich was engaged in farming, horse breeding in particular. Members of the Fedulov family were elected to city дума, Pyotr Ivanovich was especially active as a дума official. In various years he was a member of several дума committees, including the building, financial, evaluation, education and railway committees. After the events of 1917, Pyotr Ivanovich immigrated to China while Ivan Ivanovich took his family to Moscow.



The Fedulov family

## MOROZOV

**Andrei Grigoriyevich (1851-?) – merchant of the 1<sup>st</sup> guild,  
one of the most prominent merchants  
in Barnaul in early 20<sup>th</sup> century**

In 1868, Grigory Yevdokimovich Morozov, a peasant from Vladimir Governorate, started his merchant business in Barnaul. In 1890s, his son Andrei headed the family business, which led to the Morozov family becoming the most prominent merchants in the city. At the same time they were conducting business in other towns and major villages in Altai. In 1909, the “Morozov and Sons” trading house was established. The Morozov family sold a wide range of products, including textiles, clothing, footwear, ironware produced by factories in Ural, wine and groceries. Before the First World War the trade turnover for the Morozov family was at 4 million rubles in Barnaul alone, which was the highest number in the entire city. Their shops were located on Petropavlovskaya Street (today's Polzunova), Leo Tolstoy Street and at the marketplace – eight shops in total. Starting in 1885, Morozov family was constantly elected a member of Barnaul city дума, he donated money to public education and health needs. His elder son Mikhail was also elected a member of the дума. He was also the first to own a car in Barnaul. The Morozov family house was home to the best collection of canary birds in all of Siberia.



Merchant shops on Bolshaya Tobolskaya Street

## FUNK

**Mikhail Yegorovich –  
founder of the first buckshot production  
plant in Siberia**

When Mikhail Yegorovich Funk retired from his position as the head of Barnaul Post and Telegraph Office in 1869, he founded the first buckshot production plant in Siberia. For the first decade the plant produced around 165 kilos of buckshot a year, but the volumes later increased to 49 tons a year and 10 thousand rubles of profit. The product was in demand all over Siberia. Moreover, along with his brother Dmitry, Mikhail Yegorovich was mining salt on Burlinskoye Lake, with nearly 820 tons a year mined as a result. Along with Shcherbakov, a merchant from Tara, a town in Tobolsk Governorate, Mikhail Funk founded a steam navigation company in Barnaul. In 1889 the company bought the most high-performance steamboat at that time – the Zametny (lit. *outstanding*), with a 240-horsepower engine. Steamship owners made a bold attempt at establishing direct trade links with Europe through the Arctic Ocean as early as 1878. The steamboats transported 385 tons of Altai grain from Barnaul to the Gulf of Ob while ships led by a Hamburg merchant Otto Barmington brought in manufactured goods from Europe. The trade expedition was a success.

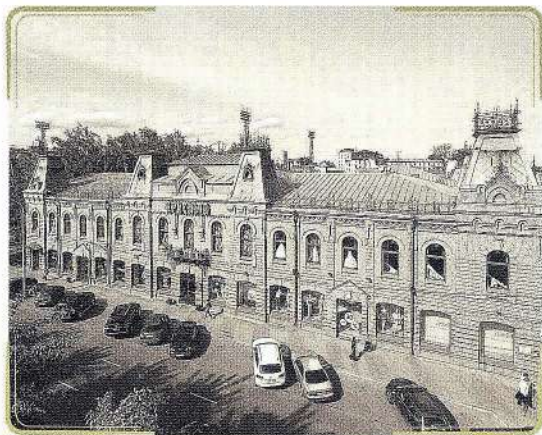


Barnaul wharf in early 20th century

## **P**OLYAKOV

**Ivan Ivanovich (1863-?) – merchant of the 1<sup>st</sup> guild,  
builder of Krasny Department Store**

Ivan Ivanovich Polyakov was born into a merchant family. His father, Ivan Gerasimovich, was a merchant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> guild who was involved in the business of producing felt-boots, fur and sheepskin. His son followed in his footsteps and eventually became the owner of the biggest felt-boots, fur and sheepskin producing facility (up to 150 workers). At the same time, he was involved in trading tea, sugar and groceries. The beginning of the 20th century saw him construct two large red-brick Russian-style buildings at the intersection of Gogolevskaya Street and Moskovsky Prospekt. The first building to appear was the one on Gogolevskaya Street (today's Altai Krai Regional Russian-German House), while the second appeared in 1911-1913 – today's Krasny Department Store, which at the time was one of the best shopping centers in the city. The buildings had their own electrical power stations and wells, and the felt-boots, fur and sheepskin production facility was located in the courtyard. Polyakov's merchant manor house was one of the best in the city. His real estate was estimated at 300 thousand rubles. Polyakov was elected member of the city дума numerous times while in 1907-1908 he was elected mayor. He made donations to public education and church needs. Polyakov was also awarded a medal commemorating the 300th anniversary of the House of Romanov.



**Polyakov's Trading House  
(Krasny Department Store)**

## **S**MIRNOV

**Ivan Fyodorovich (1858-?) – merchant  
of the 1<sup>st</sup> guild, builder of the largest shopping  
arcade in pre-revolutionary Barnaul**

Ivan Fyodorovich began his merchant career in Barnaul in 1875 when he was only 17 years old. He soon became a merchant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> guild and rose to a merchant of the 1<sup>st</sup> guild in early 20<sup>th</sup> century. His businesses offered a wide range of consumer goods. In 1906, the trade turnover for his businesses stood at 0.5 million rubles, with 39 clerks and 15 workers serving the customers. In 1908-1909, Smirnov constructed the biggest trading house in the city – a shopping arcade. The U-shaped building was located on three streets – Moskovsky Prospekt (the main front), Pushkina and Gogolevskaya Streets. It was a two-story building crowned with additional third stories on its angles. The courtyard was equipped with wine cellars and an electric power station. The arcade had a footwear shop, a haberdashery, a stationary shop, a drugstore, a wine and grocery store, a hattery. In 1913, the trade turnover was at nearly 2 million rubles. Smirnov himself went to the Irbit Fair (the major fair in Siberia), Moscow and Warsaw. He was elected member of the city дума. The shopping gallery burned down on May 2, 1917 and was never restored. The place is currently a small park.



**The shopping arcade owned by  
Ivan Fyodorovich Smirnov**

## The Vorsin Brothers

Aleksandr Fyodorovich and Ivan Fyodorovich – merchants, owners of Barnaul brewery and winery

The Vorsin merchants started their business in Barnaul in 1877. The two brothers – Aleksandr Fyodorovich Vorsin (1847–1919) and Ivan Fyodorovich Vorsin (1848–1920) – opened a small distillery in 1877, a brewery in 1883 and a winery in 1893. In 1893 they also established “The Vorsin Brothers and Olyunina” trading house. The winery was their major enterprise, producing nearly 200 thousand buckets of alcohol a year. The winery was located in a three-story building, with nearly a hundred workers employed. The winery also ran a school for the children of the workers. In 1913, the trade turnover for the winery was at 346 thousand rubles, 160 thousand for the brewery, 25 thousand for the fruit drink production facility. The 23 retail spots (most of which were beer-houses) brought in 233 thousand rubles. In the early 20th century, the production was run by Nikolai Vorsin (1875–1942) – the son of Aleksandr Vorsin – who was a trained engineer. During Soviet times, Nikolai was working in wine-making industry management in Novosibirsk. Aleksandr, Ivan and Nikolai Vorsin were elected members of the city duma, donated money to public education, public health and church needs. Aleksandr Vorsin was awarded a medal commemorating the 300th anniversary of the House of Romanov while Ivan received the 3rd Class Order of Saint Anna.



Aleksandr Fyodorovich Vorsin



Aleksandr Fyodorovich Vorsin with his wife



“The Vorsin Brothers and Olyunina” department store advertisement



## ELNIKOVA

Yevdokiya Ivanovna – owner of the biggest steam navigation company in the Ob-Irtysh river basin

In 1893, Vissarion Ivanovich Melnikov, a commoner from Vologda, established a steam navigation company in Barnaul. He passed away in 1898, and the company was taken over by Yevdokiya Ivanovna, his widow. Under her management, the “Melnikova’s Ob Steam Navigation Company” became one of the largest among similar companies operating in the Ob-Irtysh river basin. Its main office was located in Barnaul, with branches in Tomsk, Novonikolayevsk (today’s Novosibirsk), Biysk, Kamen and Ust-Charyshskaya Pristan. In 1914, the company owned 11 steamboats with overall carrying capacity of 8 tons. The amount of cargo (primarily grain) transported reached 50-60 thousand tons a year. The grain from Altai docks travelled to Novonikolayevsk, Tomsk, Tyumen. The company employed 76 office workers and nearly 500 workers and sailors, all managed by Melnikova’s son Aleksandr. The company had maintenance bays in Bobrovsky Zaton where the steamboats passed the winter and were prepared for navigation. In 1917, Melnikova sold the facility to the Tyumen company called “Western Siberia Steam Navigation and Trade Association.”



Yevdokiya Ivanovna Melnikova



Melnikova’s Steamboats



Магазин Павла Дмитриевича Сухова на Московском проспекте.  
Sukhov's store on Moskovsky Prospekt

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