

## THE LUBNY FIELD PHARMACY – THE FIRST PHARMACY ON THE LEFT-BANK UKRAINE

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**Introduction.** Lubny belongs to the oldest cities of our country. History of Lubny foundation is associated with the name of the Kyivan Prince Volodymyr Svyatoslavych. The beginning of the pharmaceutical business in Lubny is connected with the Mhar's monastery that was founded in 1619. Using a huge number of wild medicinal herbs, monks prepared medicines and with prayers sold them to patients. The Lubny pharmacy inherited traditions of the Mhar's monastery.

There is a quite common opinion that Peter I personally founded the Lubny pharmacy. After the Battle of Poltava in 1709, the Russian Tsar made a brief stay in Lubny. He noticed an advantageous strategic position of the city. Besides the rich flora and traditions of the Mhar's monastery suggested him an idea to establish a field pharmacy that could provide troops guarding the south of the state with medicines.

Various authors give different dates of the pharmacy foundation. However, personal diary of Yakov Andriyovych Markovych is documentary evidence to the fact that the Lubny pharmacy was established in 1721. We also found archival materials definitely confirming the fact that the Lubny field pharmacy was founded during the life of Peter I, and the Senate's Decree of September 3, 1733 officially registered the existing pharmacy. Three years later, in 1736, the Special Government Commission inspecting the activities of Russian pharmacies held up the Lubny pharmacy as an example to others as the best one.

**Conclusions.** Thus, archival documents show that the Lubny field pharmacy was the first one on the Left-Bank Ukraine and eventually became the centre of pharmacy and cultivation of medicinal plants in the region.

From the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the government gave preference to the purchase of drugs abroad, and then the pharmaceutical business in the Lubny region began to decline. Traditions of the Lubny pharmaceutical industry were revived in the Soviet times.