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English Study

R e s e a r c h W o r k

T o p i c “ V y k s a , M y D e s t i n y ”

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Vyksa - My Destiny

Every person should be proud of the place he or she was born in. Russian people are proud of Moscow and St. Petersburg, which are well known all over the world. But there are towns and cities which have contributed greatly to the history and fame of the Russian state. One of these towns is Vyksa.

Vyksa is like a precious stone surrounded by the dense forests and woods, ponds and lakes. Vyksa is famous for its unique and amazing history which is closely connected with the history of our country. Its history is the history of the formation, development and advances of Russia. It is a mixture of ancient history and modernity, of the past and present. Ancient settlements and modern blocks of flats are the numerous faces and sights of Vyksa.

Geographical and Climatic Peculiarities of the Vyksa region.

The name Vyksa takes its origin from the Finnish word “stream”, “torrent” among lakes or ponds.

The modern Vyksa area was a part of Murom district which also includes Pavlovo, Vatcha, Navashino areas.

The climate of the Vyksa region is moderate-continental. Winter seasons are particularly cold, especially in January, but very often people enjoy warm sunny or snowy days in the middle of winter. That is why the average temperature is 10° below zero in winter and 21° above zero in summer.

Some scientists connect the beginning of the Vyksa history of East-Baltic tribes which settled in the Murom region 2000 years BC. These tribes were known as “volosovtzy”. These settlements were found between the Oka, Volga and Kama rivers.

In the VIth century (it was a period of the Great Migration of Nations) the Mordva and Udmurt tribes colonized the territory between the Volga and Oka. Later they became famous as “muromy”. In the IX – X centuries the economy and culture of muroms achieved its climax.

In the IX – X centuries muroms lived in dug-outs. These dwellings helped people to preserve warmth in their houses. Usually the fireplace was situated in the right far corner.

In the X – XIth centuries muroms started building wood houses. They started constructing brick ovens in these houses.

In the X – XIth centuries muroms started developing various kinds of trading and handicrafts such as weaving and coal-mining. They started learning to smelt iron goods. They could make swords and spears, knives and sabers. In Pavlovo there still live and work masters producing knives and sabers to import them to different countries. The XIIth century was a real climax of the murom culture and economy.

At the end of the XIIth century slavonic tribes started invasion of the territory between the Volga and the Oka. These tribes assimilated murom population and the muroms lost unique peculiarities of their culture.

The situation changed much for the worse after the mongol-tatar invasion. After the battle at the Kulikovo Field the cultural and economic achievements of Slavonic tribes were completely ruined.

Though great and powerful cultural and economic centers such as Novgorod and Pskov, Smolensk and Polotsk managed to survive after the mongol-tatar invasion, traditional trades and handicrafts were practically destroyed. A lot of handicraft masters escaped to Galitch. The centre of the Oka lands, Murom, was practically destroyed and its citizens left to search their fortune to the North.

Only in 1344 the last Murom prince Yury Yaroslavovich started restoring the Murom lands. In 1353 Vasily the First joined Murom region to Moscow.

It was the period of forming of the first united Russian State. The formation of the united state encouraged the development of the mining and coal industries as the demand in metal weapons had increased greatly.

The Formation of the Vyksa region.

In the middle of the 16th century Russian Tzar Ivan the Terrible had to conquer the Kazan Kingdom which were ruled by the tatar khan. The troops of Ivan the Terrible were chasing the tatar army across the Vyksa area. He established camps in Turtapka, Reshnoye and Shimorskoye. These settlements became the basic centers of the economic and cultural development in the Vyksa region. For example, in Dostchatoye people started smelting castiron. The demands of military industry and agriculture caused the growth of metallurgical and mining industries. That is why a lot of skilled and experienced blacksmiths appeared in the Vyksa region at the end of the 16th century.

Till 1563 Vyksa area belonged to the Russian Tzar. While passing across this area Ivan the Terrible was amazed by the beauty of local landscapes. He was charmed by thick forests and clear lakes and ponds around the confluence the Oka and the Volga. Ivan the Fourth presented his servant Ivan Kildyaev with the land along the banks of the Oka river "...for his great service" as it was said in the tzar's bill.

The development of the ore mining industry is greatly connected with the name of the Russian emperor Peter the Great. In 1719 Peter the Great signed a bill which enabled the owners of iron and ore mines to employ skilled and experienced workers from other countries to increase the output of castiron and steel for the military industry. Peter the Great's bill allowed businessmen and trade people to explore and apply lands and territories which belonged to other landlords in case they didn't want to take up mining or smelting. Miners and smelters had the right not to pay taxes to the Tzar if they produced iron, castiron, mined an ore or contributed to the development of any kind of trade or industry. Peter's bill was the legal source for the development of heavy industry in Vyksa region.

The Beginning of the History of the stock-joint Vyksa Steel Works.

On the 22nd of November in 1763 landlords Nikita and Gerasim Goltzov, the descendants of the Kldyaev family sold their estate to the Batashov brothers – Ivan and Andrew.

Catherine the Great issued a ~~bill~~ allowing the Batashovs to build a steel-metallurgical plant between the Vyksun and Veletma rivers. Catherine the Great ordered mordva tribes to inhabit this area. Later mordva tribes mixed with the local Slavonic population and there are a lot of archeological evidences that these two nationalities lived peacefully along the banks of the Oka, Veletma and Zheleznitza rivers for a long period of time enriching their cultural and economic traditions.

The Birth of the Business Dynasty.

The Batashov brothers (Andrew and Ivan) were the first and the most powerful and important businessmen whose contribution to the local metallurgical industry was highly appreciated not only by the Russian Royal family but also by all the following authorities and governments of Russia. The Batashov family take its roots from a poor blacksmith's family from Tula. But their ability to achieve success, to reveal their natural talent to do business, their creativity and persistence enabled them to reach the top rank position in the society and they were granted with the title of noble landlords. They were granted with the right to have their own arms. Their name was highly cherished by the Russian Royal family alongside with such names as the Demidows and Yakovlevs. The father of Ivan and Andrew, Rodion Batashov was deprived of his steel-metallurgical plants near Moscow in 1751. According to the Tzar bill all the metallurgical plants were closed as they destroyed woods and forests round the Capital. In 1756 Rodion Batashov died and his two sons took up his business and started looking for the new places to establish steel-metallurgical plants. And they succeeded in their search. They found such a place near Murom. They were fascinated by rich sources of iron ore, energetic resources, water and wood sources. Besides this area was close to sellers' markets and waterways which were easily available. This fact enabled the brothers to found their plants in this region. Within less than half a century they founded 18 steel-metallurgical plants which produced more than 10 per cent of the total metal production in Russia at the beginning of the XIXth century.

On the 26th of August Catherine the Great signed a special bill which permitted the Batashovs to build the first metallurgical plant in Vyksa area. It was the period of time when Russia was in great demand of iron and cast-iron military production as at that time Russia army was fighting against Turkish troops. The Russian army needed guns, rifles, bullets. Many owners of metallurgical plants refused to produce military items under different excuses. The Batashov brothers' enterprises

increased the output of military production and their contribution to the victory over the Turkish army was highly appreciated by the Russian authorities.

In 1770 the Batashov brothers were awarded by Catherine the Great with the right to buy more peasants to increase the output of guns and rifles.

Not only their intelligence, experience and personal traits of character enabled the Batashov brothers to develop and achieve great success in steel-metallurgical industry. Natural resources, favorable geographical situation of Vyksa region, the demand of the Russian state in metal and military goods caused by the Russian-Turkish wars all these circumstances contributed to the growth of the production at Vyksa metallurgical plants, which became very profitable and beneficial for the Batashov brothers and made them one of the richest families in Russia.

The most important role in the establishment and development of Vyksa region was played by Ivan Rodionovich Batashov. Thanks to his capacity for hard work, persistence, creativity and intelligence his flourishing and prosperous plants were the leading enterprises in Russia metallurgical industry. In 1816 Ivan Rodionovich Batashov was offered to start producing pipes and tubes for the Moscow water-supply system. At this period of the development of technical progress Ivan Batashov invented a steam engine. This type of the engine was widely used in England, but it was strictly prohibited to export these engines to other countries. So Ivan Batashov and his employer Pavel Yastrebov invented their own type of the steam engine to be used for operating blast-furnace ovens. It was the first steam engine used at Russian industrial enterprises.

During the Patriotic War against Napoleonic troops (1812-1814) The Batashov plants had to produce guns, bullets, swords, rifles to meet the needs of the Russian army. In 1814 the top manager of the Vyksa steel plants, A.I. Gornostaev, was awarded with a gold medal for producing weapons.

The Batashovs did their best to develop the economy and culture in the area. They founded the town park which is still the pride of the citizens of Vyksa. It was designed according to the French and English styles of park arrangement. They

arranged the park according to the most famous parks of Moscow and St. Petersburg. There were summer houses, monuments, sculptures.

I. R. Batashov was the designer of the first church in Vyksa. He also founded the only hospital for workers, the water-power system on the Vyksa ponds. Feoder Batashov and Timofey Brovin were awarded with the Great Silver medal for the invention of the power machine to operate the machines of Vyksa plants. They supplied the Demidovs` metallurgical plants with this advanced equipment. So, the contributions of the Batashovs to the development of engineering are hard to overestimate.

The Shepelevs.

Dmitry Dmitrievich Shepelev was a participant of the wars against Napoleonic armies. He married I. R. Batashov's granddaughter and after the death of I. R. Batashov he became the only owner of the Vyksa plants. He revealed his outstanding abilities as a general and military man. The Russian troops under his leadership won some very important victories at the battle of Borodino and Maloyaroslavetz. For his contribution to the victory over Napoleonic troops. D. D. Shepelev's name was printed on the board of Glory in the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow.

D. D. Shepelev revealed his abilities for industrial business before the death of I. R. Batashov. He persuaded Ivan Rodionovich to reconstruct the plants and to invite to Vyksa highly-qualified engineers from Germany and England. After the reconstruction the Snoved and Verkhnevyksunsky plants were the best enterprises in central Russia. For example, in 1854 the Snoved plant had 5 steam engines. Due to the reconstruction Vyksa plants were offered to produce not only military production, but also specific goods: iron fences for Moscow houses and parks, pumps, balconies. In 1830 Vyksa plants started producing steam boats and equipments for these ships. Unfortunately, by 1842 all the sellers' markets were filled with cheap metal and steel production. The New British Government allowed to export steam engines and Russian seller market was filled with that type of equipment. The Shepelevs spent too much money on luxurious purchases, theatre, parks, education of their children. They spent a lot of time traveling to Moscow and St. Petersburg. They enjoyed being members of high social groups and paid little attention to the economic situation at their plants. They didn't reveal any interest to the tendencies of the world economics and didn't have any wish to change their attitude towards the new economic demands. By the middle of the XIXth century the Batashov-Shepelev enterprises had become bankrupts and had been taken into the state care.

The Trusteeship Management at the Vyksa Metallurgical Plants.

Russian Tzar Nicolay the First ordered to take Shepelevs' estate under the trusteeship of general Vasily Sukhovo-Kobylin. He turned to be a very cabable and skilled manager. Within 20 years Vyksa plants gained their former reputation and doubled the production of cast-iron and steel.

But the Crimea War caused the drop of the production at Vyksa plants and V. A. Sukhovo-Kobylin had to retire. A number of hires demanded to establish a new trusteeship over the plants. In 1862 Vyksa metallurgical plants were put at sale.

In 1862 Vyksa plants were under the English trusteeship. But it also failed to be successful.

On the 6th of February a German manager A.I. Lessing was appointed as the top manager of the Vyksa plants. It was the beginning of the flourishing period of the Vyksa plants. A.I. Lessing carried out a great econstruction at Vyksa steel-metallurgical plants. Later A. I. Lessing became the only owner of these plants. He closed 2 plants which were the least profitable – the Snoved and Veletma plants. Lessing doubled the production of the cast-iron. He installed new steam engines to increase the temperature of smelting up to 600° degrees. He established the frst open-hearth furnaces at his plants. This furnace enabled Lessing to produce pure steel and steel articles, which were in great demand. Lessing increased the output of steel goods up to 40 per cent. He constructed the first railways to deliver the production and roar materials. He built new houses for his workers and engineers whom he had invited from Belgium, Germany and Sweden. He also promoted local talented people. For example, the root of the foundry shop was designed by famous Russian engineer Vladinir Grigoryevich Shukhov, whose towers and constructions are still considered to be the heritage of the whole mankind. Lessing constructed a small electrical power-station, another rail-way from Vyksa to Dostchatoe. A.I. Lessing started producing rails. He applied the first telephone

communication in Nizhniy Novgorod region. But in 1905 the production of the Lessing metallurgical plants were not demanded as in the while all the heavy industry was in a very bad state. The output of Vyksa metallurgical plants had greatly decreased by that period. A.I.Lessing had to cut the salary of his workers. A.I. Lessing took all the possible measures to improve the situation at his plants. Thanks to his activity and inventiveness he managed to cope with all the problems and by 1914 his enterprises in Vyksa region had again achieved their former position on top of the Russian heavy industry. At that period of their history Vyksa metallurgical plants were represented at many international exhibitions. Their production was awarded with gold medals for the variety and quality at Kazan, Milan, Paris, Leipzig, Moscow, Berlin international industrial exhibitions.

The beginning of the war against Germany caused great problems at the Vyksa steel-metallurgic plants. The top manager of the plants was appointed by the Ministry of Finance. By that time A. I. Lessing had quit and moved to Germany. His son who had been in the charge of the plants had been dismissed and joined his father in Germany. The Russian-Germany war practically caused the stoppage of the functioning of the Vyksa plants.

The Soviet Period At the Vyksa Metallurgical Plants.

According to the bill of the Soviet Government the Vyksa plants were included into the great industrial corporation “Sormovo-Colomna”. During the period of “military communism” all the facilities, energetic resources and equipment at Vyksa plants were taken under the control of the local authorities and at the end of the 1918 the plants’ authorities developed a plan of extending and reconstruction of the plants. The plan also involved the construction of the new open-hearth furnace oven, the replacement of the out-of-date equipment of the wire and tube workshops. But the Civil War destroyed all the plans of reconstruction.

During the “new economic politics” Vyksa metallurgical plants achieved great progress in reconstruction and production of metal goods. Much attention was paid to the construction of new railways to deliver fuel from marshes, woods and peat-bogs.

In 1932 the Vyksa metallurgical plants had great problems with fuel and raw material. A new reconstruction of the plants was carried out in 1933 – 1935. By the beginning of 1935 the Vyksa enterprises included the following shops: old-furnace and new-furnace shops, a foundry shop, old-pipe and new-pipe shops, a blast furnace shop.

At the end of 1940 the daily smelting of steel increased dramatically.

The War And After War Period.

Since the first days of the Great Patriotic War Vyksa plants raised the output of high-quality steel and rolled metal. During all the war period Vyksa steel-metallurgic plants raised the output of steel and metal up to 438 per cents. A lot of Vyksa citizens contributed greatly to the victory over Nazi Germany. Hundreds of them were awarded for their contribution to this victory to defeat Nazi troops.

After the Great Patriotic War Vyksa plants were completely reconstructed. They were united into one single enterprise the “Vyksa Metallurgical Works” and on the 18th of December 1957 it was awarded by the Presidium of the Supreme Council with the top state award Lenin Order. Within the period of 1961 – 1968 the VMW was again reconstructed and up-to-date equipment was installed at every shop. In the 1970th gas and oil industries needed a great number of pipes for transmitting gas and oil for long distances. The extending of pipe work-shops took place in 1972 – 1984.

On the 1st of October the wheelproducing shop was opened and the new equipment for wheel-production was launched. It was the period of time when a lot of new equipment and different kinds of tools and devices were being applied for the first time in the history of heavy or metallurgical industry. Many times the VSW became the winner of the socialist competition.

Nowadays.

A new stage of the development of the VSW began when the enterprise joined the United Metallurgical Company in 1999. Since that time the VSW has been successfully developing its production, expending its abilities to face the needs of the Russian gas, oil and railways industries.

Nowadays the VSW mainly produced pipes, tubes and wheels.

Thanks to the great amount of investments the Vyksa Stock-joint Works is one of the world leaders in producing wheels, pipes and tubes. The production of the VSW holds 60 per cent of the Russian market. The enterprises consist of two major departments: Wheelproducing and pipeproducing branches. The main productions of the VSW are pipes for gas and oil industry and wheels. The VSW can produce more than 2 million tons of pipes per year.

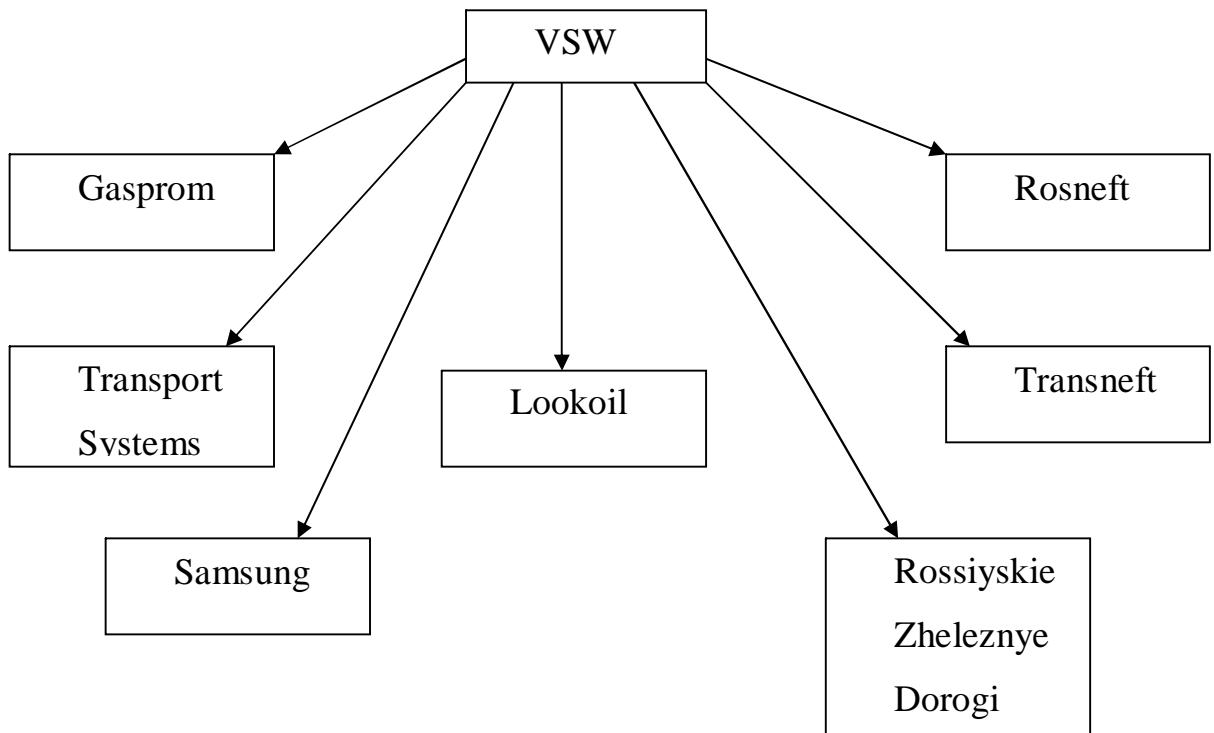
In 2004 a new kind of steel processing equipment was established at the VSW. It enabled to raise the quality of metal used for producing railways wheel. The project of the establishment took less than a year. The amount of investments reached 12 million dollars.

Special attention is paid to the ecological problems caused by the increase of the amount of production. The VSW authorities spend great sums of money to provide the enterprise with high quality equipment to decrease the amount of air-polluting waste.

On the 8th of April 2005 a new shop was opened to produce a new sort of pipes. It produces a pipe which has the diameter of 1420 mm. These pipes are being used for constructing the North-European gas-main. The high-tech equipment and new technologies used at the VSW enable the constructors to meet all the demands and needs of this project.

Within 2005 – 2007 the VSW produced more than 200 thousand tons of pipes for the project “Sakhalin”.

The graph shows the links of the VSW with the most famous companies of the world heavy industry.



The VSW cooperates with many countries: Iraq, Iran, Yugoslavia, South Korea, The USA, Germany, Slovenia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Bulgaria and many others.

The program of modification of the VSW equipment will have been completed by the end of 2008. It was planned that by the end of 2008 the output of pipes the great diameter will have been increased up to 1 million tons. A new shop “Stan – 500” will be constructed to provide the VSW with necessary amount of metal. This new workshop will be equipped by the famous German company ‘SMS Demag AG’.

Vyksa – My Destiny.

It is really difficult to find a family in Vyksa which is not closely linked with the history of the VSW. My family is not an exception either.

The first generation who worked at the VSW was my grandmother and her sisters. There were six children in their family. They started their families and now the third generation of my family and relatives work at the VSW.

They are:

- ❖ Bodrova A. T.
- ❖ Toszheva L. T.
- ❖ Nikolaev S. T.
- ❖ Nikolaeva A. T.
- ❖ Nikolaev I. B.
- ❖ Nikolaeva T. V.
- ❖ Inyaev V. A.

Most of them work or worked in the pipe-producing workshop № 4. In 2007 Nikolaev I. B. received an honor letter from the head of the municipal authorities Sokolov A. S

My family is proud to be employed at the VSW. My both parents have worked at the VSW for more than 52 years. They are proud to be the members of the VSW staff. They have been witnesses of the development and achievements of the VSW.

As for me I am also planning to join the staff of the VSW.

1. I hope:
2. To enter the institute after finishing school
3. I will return to my native town after graduating from the institute
4. To continue my working career at the VSW
5. To achieve success in my career as a metallurg

My future will also connect their lives with our famous, outstanding and wonderful enterprise

I am sure of my future and I know that it will be connected with the VSW which provides and will provide my family, my relatives and all the citizens of Vyksa with work, sense of confidence in future and hope that our country will flourish and become more powerful only if such towns as Vyksa are powerful, developing and successful.

Long life to Vyksa!!!

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