In the distant August 1638, on the high bank of the Seversky Donets River, among the thick woods, they began to build a fortress. This is the beginning of the history of one of the largest cities in the Kharkov region – Chuguev. But if the Cossack uprising under the leadership by Yakov Ostryanitsa had not been defeated, this area could have remained deserted.

The Chuguev Fortress, like the Kharkov one, was made of wood. Its design is quite simple - oak logs pointed from above were installed on an earthen rampart. In the 18th century, it was reinforced with brickwork. A deep moat around the fortress served as additional protection. To imagine its size, it is enough to come to the central square of Chuguev. Here was the governor's house, administrative and economic buildings, the Cathedral Church. People settled around the fortress in villages.

Along the perimeter of the fortress wall there were 8 towers, and each had its own name: Prechistenskaya with a gate, Srednaya, Bryaslovskaya, Pyatnitskaya, Naugolnaya, Taynitskaya. From the last, there was a secret passage led to the Seversky Donets River, so that during the siege the inhabitant of Chuguev could replenish their supplies of drinking water. By the way, there are many legends about the underground passages passing under the entire city. Chuguev residents really want their own "catacombs". But the studies carried out are inexorable - no voids were found under the city.

The [hilly](https://wooordhunt.ru/word/hilly) [area](https://wooordhunt.ru/word/area) not only saved from nomad’s raids, but also created comfortable conditions for growing fruit trees. In the 17th and 18th centuries, there were built [vineyards](https://wooordhunt.ru/word/vineyards) around the city. According to one of the urban legends, Chuguev’s grapes were delivered to the royal’s table. And it is not surprising, because in more northern latitudes the thermophilic plant no longer bears fruit. And today the Chuguev’s coat of arms is decorated with a bunch of grapes.

By the end of the 18th century, the need for defensive structures disappeared, and the wooden fortress was dismantled. The city began a new stage in its life.