

## HISTORY OF THE PHARMACIES IN THE TOWN OF ALEȘD, BIHOR COUNTY

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### Abstract

*In 1848 pharmacist Horváth Mihály established the first pharmacy in Aleșd, called Speranța (Remény). Following the brief history of this pharmacy we will notice that in 1874 the pharmacy comes into the possession of Kocsiss József. In 1906 the personal rights of the pharmacy are transcribed to Kocsiss Béla, and since 1938 the his son, Kocsiss Dezső, pharmacist, became the new owner. In 1949 the pharmacy was nationalized and became the property of the Pharmaceutical Office Oradea, the pharmacy got the name Farmacia nr. 22 of Aleșd, and continued its activity throughout the whole communist period. Starting with the year 1991 it entered into private system as Angefarm, as the property of Mermeze Gheorghe, pharmacist, and from 2003 until now works under the name Vitalogy 3, as the property of Ghitea Sorin. A second pharmacy, Sfântul Anton was founded in 1937 by pharmacist Herceg Dobreanu Atena, which however had no continuity during the communist period.*

**Keywords:** history of Bihor pharmacy, Aleșd, Bihor county.

### Introduction

ALEȘD, one of the main settlements in Bihor county, situated along the Crișul Repede valley is documented in records tithe of the Catholic Diocese of Oradea in the years 1291-1294 and 1332-1333 under the name *villa Elluşd* or *villa Eleşd* [1]. In the Middle Ages the history of this settlement is closely linked to the city Piatra Șoimului, or Șinteu, located nearby, on top of a steep cliff on Șinteu valley, a tributary of Crișul Repede. It seems that this settlement was founded by colonization in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century, by the early masters of these places, who also rose Castle Șinteu, around which a sprawling area was gradually built [2].

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and especially in the following century, Aleșd will see a sharp economical development, relying primarily on raw materials which were available. They set up brick, tile and wood factories and many others.

Following the administrative-territorial organization of Bihor, in the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Aleșd became a regional center, remaining in that position until 1950, when it will become district. Gradually Aleșd developed as an important economic and cultural center, concentrating the largest number of people and institutions related to the service area. In 1968 Aleșd was declared a town, status it

holds today.

The number of inhabitants in 1930 was 2424, up from 1910, when the city hosted 2337 people [3,4]. At the 1992 census the city population was 10,842, whose ethnic distribution was: Romanian 6889 (63.5%), Hungarians 2388 (22.02%), Roma (gypsies) 901 (8.30%), Slovaks 625 (5.46%) and 39 people of other nations [5].

Before nationalization there were 2 public pharmacies in Aleșd: Speranța (engl. = Hope) Pharmacy and St. Anton Pharmacy.

### Pharmacy SPERANȚA (REMÉNY) (Farmacia nr. 22, Angefarm, Vitalogy 3) (1848-2010)

Pharmacy Speranța which first was a dispensary in Aleșd, opened in the year 1848 and was led, until today, by the following pharmacists:

1848-1873- pharmacist Horváth Mihály- founder and owner

1874-1903- pharmacist Kocsiss József- owner

1904-1905- the successors of Kocsiss József, Kocsiss Béla- master

1906-1937- pharmacist Kocsiss Béla- owner

1938-1942- pharmacist Kocsiss Dezső- heir owner

1942-1944- pharmacist Kocsiss Dezső- owner, administrator Stankowsky István

1944-1946- pharmacist Carianopol- owner

1949- nationalization of the pharmacy

1949-1990- (*Farmacia nr. 22*)

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1966-1968- pharmacist Polinicencu Constantin-  
master

1968-1970- pharmacist Polinicencu Maria- master

1971-1990- pharmacist Mermeze Gheorghe- master

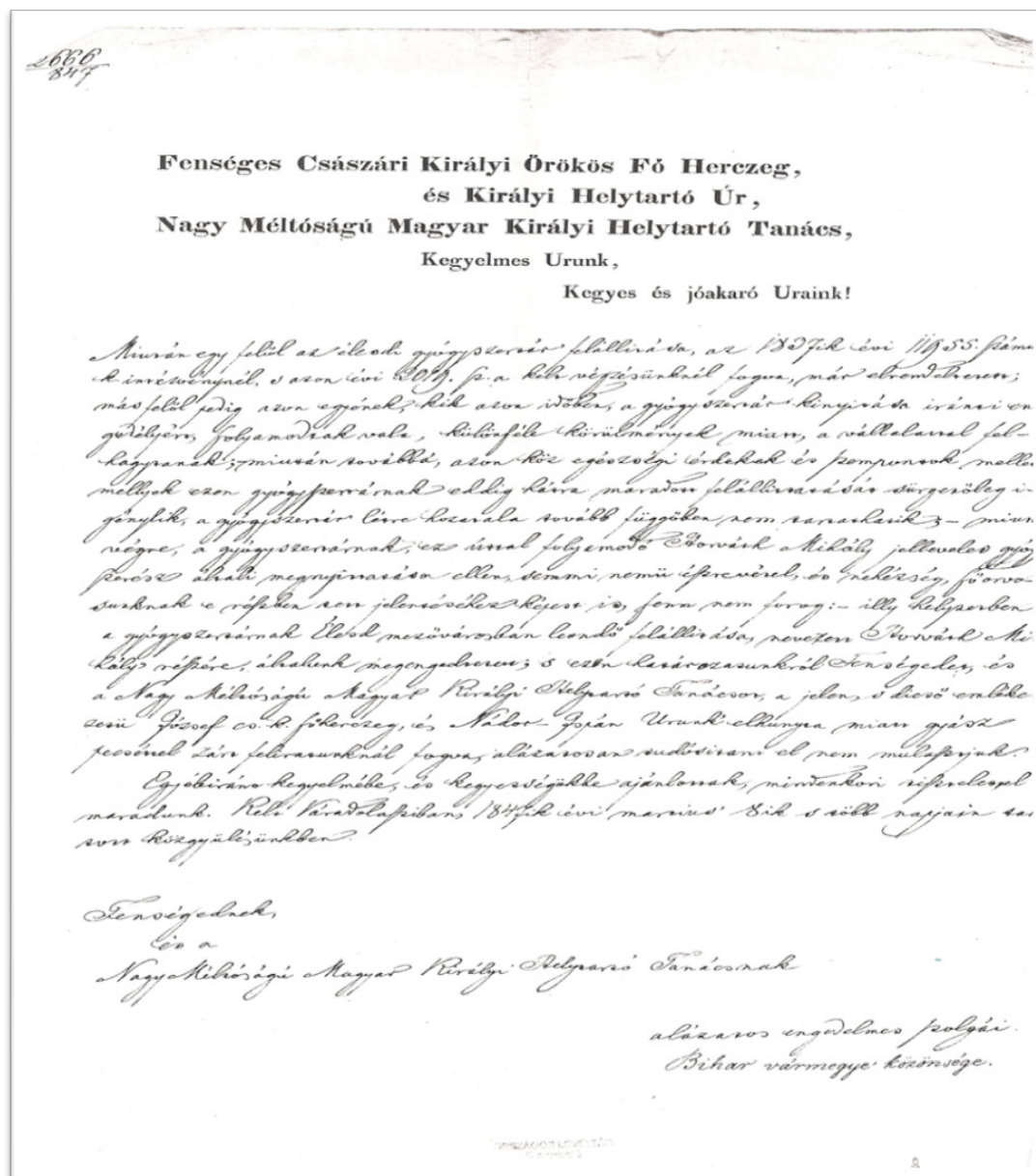
1991-2003- (Angefarm) pharmacist Mermeze  
Gheorghe- owner and master

2003-2010- (Vitalogy 3) Ghitia Sorin- owner

Emil V. Róthschnek states in his beautiful monograph that the pharmacy was established in 1837, not knowing who was the founder, and that in 1877 Kocsis József is listed here as the owner who, despite several requests, gave no other information the author [6].

Researched archival documents bring new data about this dispensary. Thus, in the General Assembly of Bihor County, in June 7, 1847, sent to the Local Hungarian Royal Council it is stated that: "in 1837 the establishment of the pharmacy was approved in the town Aleșd, but for some reason it was not carried out, although it was very necessary to establish such a pharmacy. Now Horváth Mihály pharmacist can open a pharmacy, as he has the necessary approvals and the county agrees to the establishment of this pharmacy in Aleșd" [7].

Because the interval between getting real right of ownership of a pharmacy and opening it could be up to one



**Figure 1.** Approval of the request to establish the Speranța pharmacy in Aleșd in the name of Horváth Mihály pharmacist.  
[Source: Magyar Országos Levéltár Budapesta, Iratok, Osztály Egészségügyi / Relatio Sanitatis (Departamentum Sanitatis), (National Hungarian Archives of Budapest, Documents of the Local Council, Health Department), C66, year 1847, fasc. 5, pos. 84, file 474].

year, we tend to believe that pharmacy was established in 1848, facts supported by the pharmacist's calendars from 1917, 1918, 1942, 1943 [8,9,10,11].

Linzbauer's statistics from 1849 show that the pharmacy owner is Horváth Michael, Roman Catholic, with a diploma obtained in Pest in 1841, at the age of 32 [12,13]. We would like to mention that Michael is the counterpart of the surname hungarian Mihály, therefore it is the same person Horváth Michael (Horváth Mihály), the first owner and founder of Speranța pharmacy in Aleșd. Probably before his death the pharmacy was sold to another pharmacist, because in all pharmacist's calendars since 1874, József Kocsiss is appearing as the owner. In some directory appears the name owner Kocsis as owner, but after 1884, the correct version of the name Kocsiss appears.

His successor is Kocsiss Béla, who began as a pharmacist in the dispensary tutor [14]. According to calendars he became owner in 1906 and will manage the dispensary until his death occurred in 1937.

From a nominal list of doctors and pharmacists from Aleșd in the year 1921, we found out that Kocsiss Béla, with the rank of lieutenant in the former Austro-Hungarian army, worked as a pharmacist in Aleșd and Kocsiss Dezideriu (Dezső), son of the owner, second lieutenant, was serving as pharmacy practitioner, though only student. Besides these, the 11 staff employed at praeture Aleșd included 3 doctors: Jacob Weisz (common doctor) Coloman Szirmay (divisional doctor), Geza Pap, and 2 veterinary doctors: Bardos Vasile and Maurus Braumann [15]. In a similar table in 1926, we meet again Kocsiss Béla as owner pharmacist in Aleșd [16].



**Figure 2.** The personalised label of pharmacy Speranța (Remény) [Source: personnal archive of the local pharmacist Budaházy István].

The pharmacy, inherited through transcription by his son, Kocsiss Dezideriu, as approved in 1937, remained his property until after the German troops retreated in 1944, when the pharmacy was obtained by pharmacist Carianopol. He renounced it willingly, after October 20, 1946 [17].

In 1949 the pharmacy was nationalized and became the only open circuit local pharmacy in the town. It operated as a hotbed of Pharmaceutical Office of Oradea, under the name *Pharmacy no. 22* of Aleșd.

In 1967, Aleșd was the center district, with a population of 7000 inhabitants, excluding surrounding villages, an important workers center (brick factory, lime factory, hydrocentral, etc.), with the aim to become a town, which was achieved in 1968, at the last administrative-territorial organization. As *Pharmacy no. 22*, the only one in Aleșd, operated in an inadequate space, partitioned inappropriately, insufficient in size, it was necessary to build a commercial complex which would also host the pharmacy. The investment was 340.000 lei and the construction was completed in 1971. The new pharmacy of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, with an area of 264 square meters was soon furnished with new furniture and equipment [18].

In 1991 under the privatization law, the pharmacy was converted into a company, received the name of *Angefarm*, having as owner and pharmacist tutor Mermeze Gheorghe. In 2003, the pharmacy was bought by Ghitea Sorin, owner of other pharmacies in Oradea. From this year the name of the pharmacy is *Vitalogy 3*, which still operates under administration of pharmacist Eva Egri.

### Pharmacy SFÂNTUL ANTON (1937-1949)

1937-1949- pharmacist Herceg Dobreanu Atena-founder and owner

1949- pharmacy closure

We suppose that the pharmacy was established in 1937, through a concession approved of "a high royal decree no. 3185/1937", with personal authorization no. 73056 of 17 October 1937 and opened by the decision no. 124 678 of 7 December 1937 by the wife of Dr. Herceg György, born Dobreanu Atena [11,17]. The pharmacy appears in the official nationalization lists. Other data we do not know.

### Community pharmacies in Aleșd town in the year 2010

In 2010 Aleșd had three community pharmacies (Table I) registered under the privatization law as commercial companies.

**Table I.** The brief data of existing pharmacies in Aleșd, Bihor county, in 2010.

No.	Year of establishment	The pharmacy name	Owner (administrator)	Pharmacist master
1.	1991	VITALOGY 3 (formerly <i>Speranța Pharmacy</i> )	Ghitea Sorin	Egri Eva
2.	2002	BUTUC IMPEX	pharmacist Butuc Elena	Butuc Elena
3.	2002	RODIA 2	Prof. dr. pharmacist Vicaș Laura	Mateș Ioana Anca

## Conclusions

In Aleșd there were two public pharmacies until nationalization. The oldest pharmacy was established in 1848 by pharmacist Horváth Mihály with the name *Speranța* (Remeny), which will continue its ongoing work to this day. A second dispensary in Aleșd, *Sfântul Anton* pharmacy was opened in 1937 by pharmacist Herceg Dobreanu Atena, and it was closed through the nationalization in 1949. The oldest dispensary functioned throughout the communist period as *Pharmacy no. 22* of Aleșd, which after privatization in 1991 became *Angefarm*, and since 2003 has been *Vitalogy 3*.

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