Routes Out of Russia

Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia
Russian Interest Group
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Common Scenario?
Timeline 1880-1906

- March 1881  Alexander II assassinated; Alexander III becomes czar.
- April 1881  Pogroms in Elizavetgrad, Kiev, Odessa and other cities.
- Summer 1881  First mass emigration; refugees from pogroms gather in Brody, Austria (now Ukraine).
- Jan. 1882  Count Ignatyev states “The Western frontier is open for Jews,” setting off an emigration panic in the Jewish population.
- March 1882  Pogrom at Balta (Podolia).
- May 1882  “May Laws” further curtail Jewish rights and restrict the Pale.
- Summer 1882  Second wave of emigrants assembles at Brody.
- 1888-91  New emigrant holding facilities built at Hamburg, Germany.
- 1891  Expulsion of Jews from Moscow.
- 1892  Ellis Island opens. Direct passenger service from Odessa and Riga to NY begins.
- Jan. 1892  Tightening of border controls between Russia and Germany. Emigrants required to have passenger ticket to Hamburg or Bremen, as well as steamship passage.
- Aug. 1892  Cholera breaks out at Hamburg Port; border crossing temporarily closed.
- October 1894  Alexander III dies; Nicholas II becomes czar.
- 1901  New emigrant hall opened at Hamburg with direct rail link.

Timeline 1906-1924

- 1906  Peak year for Jewish emigration from Russia (approximately 150,000 emigrants).
- 1906 / 1907  Expansion of the Hamburg Emigrant City.
- 1912  Construction of an Emigrant Railway Station at Peutebahndamm (Hamburg) with a large-scale shelter.
- 1914-1918  World War I severely curtails emigration from Europe.
- 1917  Russian Revolution.
- 1918-1922  Russian Civil War. Period of the Petlyura pogroms in Ukraine.
- 1921  Emergency Quota Act introduces national origin quotas for immigrants to the U.S.
- 1921-1922  Independent Baltic republics (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia) are established and issue their own passports.
- 1924  Immigration Act of 1924 drastically reduces Jewish immigration to the U.S.
Points of Emigration from the Russian Empire 1882-1917

- Major land border crossings Russia to Austria-Hungary:
  - Radzivilov, Russia / Brody, Austria – frontier on the Dubno to Lemberg rail line
  - Podvolochisk – frontier on the Proskurov to Tarnopol rail line
  - Czernowitz, Austria (now Chernivtsi, Ukraine)

- Major land border crossings Russia to Germany:
  - Kibarty, Russia / Eydtkuhnen, Germany (now Kybartai, Lithuania / Chernyshevskoye, Russia) – frontier on the Vilna to Konigsburg rail line
  - Tilsit, Germany (now Sovetsk, Russia)
  - Prostken, Germany (now Prostki, Poland)

- Seaports:
  - Odessa
  - Riga
  - Libau (now Liepāja, Latvia)

Changing Borders - 1881

- Tilsit Border Crossing
- Kibarty Border Crossing
- Prostken Border Crossing
Routes Across Germany

Transmigration Across England
Major Steamship Lines Calling at Philadelphia

- Red Star Line
  - 1872-1902 Antwerp - Philadelphia
- American Line
  - 1873-1884 Philadelphia - Queenstown - Liverpool
  - 1892-1925 Philadelphia - Queenstown - Liverpool
- Hamburg-American Line
  - 1898-1939 Hamburg - Philadelphia
- White Star Line
  - 1872-1960 Liverpool - Boston / Philadelphia
- North German-Lloyd Line
- Allan Line
  - 1864 -1914 Glasgow - Philadelphia.

Sources: [www.theshiplist.com](http://www.theshiplist.com), [www.hsp.org](http://www.hsp.org) (Philadelphia: Immigrant City)

Useful Web Sites

- FEEFHS Map Room: [http://feefhs.org/maps/indexmap.html](http://feefhs.org/maps/indexmap.html)
- [http://www.mindspring.com/~jsli/Moreontrip.html](http://www.mindspring.com/~jsli/Moreontrip.html) (John Jaffer’s web page – reconstructs the journey of his ancestors from Seta, Lithuania, to Connecticut)