Routes Out of Russia

Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia
Russian Interest Group
January 20, 2008

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.
- 1906 — U.S. Naturalization Act. Direct steamship passenger service from Libau to New York begins.

Timeline 1906-1924

- 1906 — U.S. Naturalization Act. Direct steamship passenger service from Libau to New York begins.
- 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, Lavia, Estonia) are established and issue their own passports.
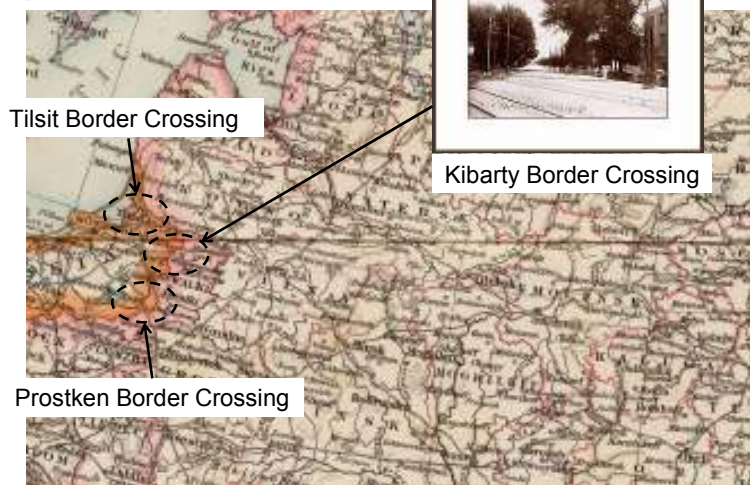- 1924 — Immigration Act of 1924 drastically reduces Jewish immigration to the U.S.

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
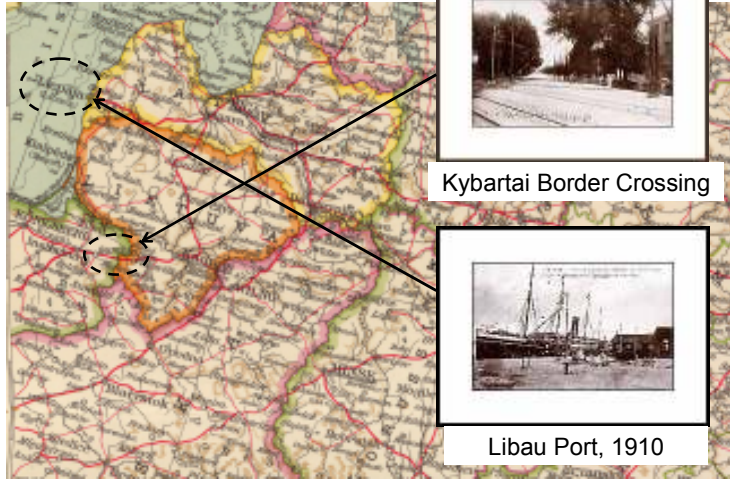 - Riga
  - Libau (now Liepāja, Latvia)
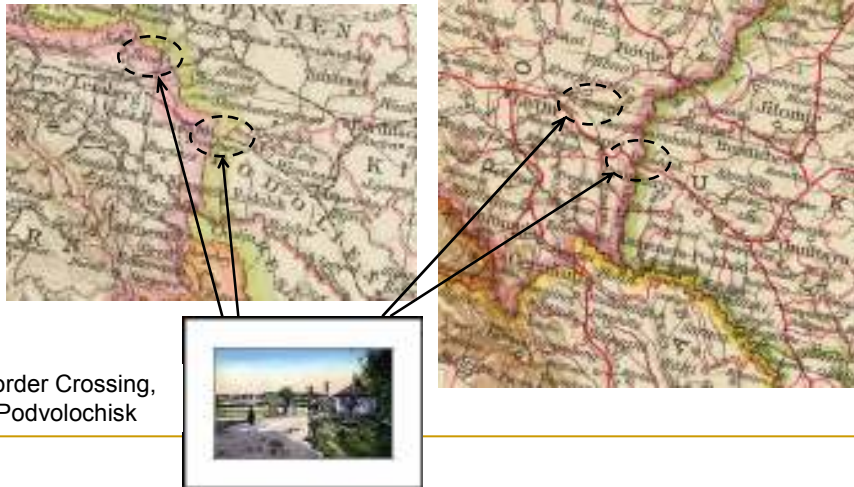
Changing Borders - 1881

Tilsit Border Crossing

Kibarty Border Crossing

Prostken Border Crossing

Changing Borders - 1929

Kybartai Border Crossing

Libau Port, 1910

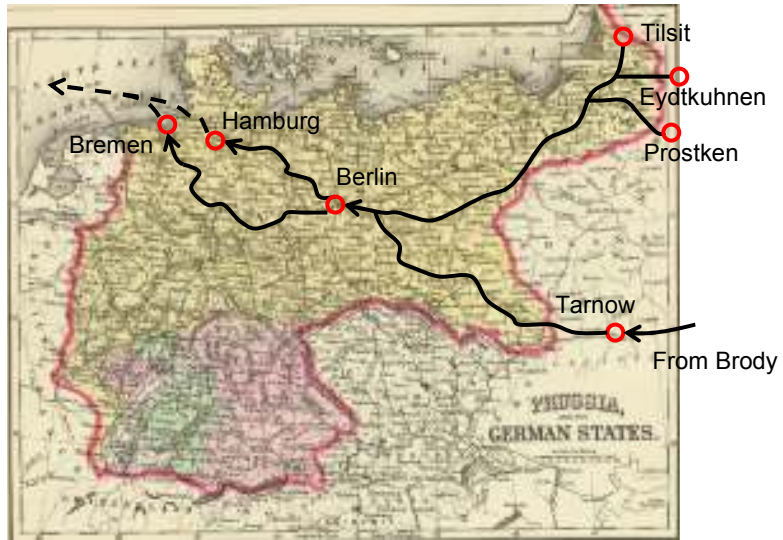# Changing Borders

1881

1929

Border Crossing, Podvolochisk

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
  - 1910-1914? Bremen – Philadelphia – Galveston
- Allan Line
  - 1864 -1914 Glasgow - Philadelphia.

Sources: www.theshipslist.com, www.hsp.org (Philadelphia: Immigrant City)

Useful Web Sites

- Ballin Stadt (Hamburg emigration museum): http://www.ballinstadt.de/en/BallinStadt/
- Jewish emigration links: http://jewishwebindex.com/emigration.htm
- Historical Map Collection: http://www.davidrumsey.com/
- FEEFHS Map Room: http://feefhs.org/maps/indexmap.html
- Find My Past
  (Passenger Lists Leaving UK 1890-1960):
  http://www.findmypast.com/
- http://www.mindspring.com/~jslj/Moreontrip.html
  (John Jaffer's web page – reconstructs the journey of his ancestors from Seta, Lithuania, to Connecticut)