

## JewishGen Communities

JewishGen organizes geographic names by referring to them by standardized modern place-names, their coordinates and their assigned international geographic place numbers (USGBN). JewishGen Communities Trees and JewishGen Communities Databases are organized by time period: Pre-WWI, Interwar and Modern (after 2000). Also shown on each Communities Page are shtetl name variants: for example Homyel, Belarus—Region: Mogilev. Alternate names: Homyel' [Belarusian], Gomel' [Russian], Homl [Yiddish], Homel [Polish, German], Gomelis [Lithuanian], Homlye, Homiel. The SIG follows the same standardized conventions.



Date: 15 Apr 1999  
Subject: Re: Uezds & Gubernias  
Carol asked:

Could someone please advise the similarities and differences between uyezds and/or gubernias??

Basically, a gubernia was a larger governmental and administrative area or unit than the uyezd, somewhat analogous to a state and county.

I wish you much success with your genealogical quest,  
Judi

### Skill Building Exercise #11: The Byelorussia Governorate

[What areas of present-day Belarus does the SIG cover?](#)



Modern Belarus is the outcome of the Partitions of Poland, the territory in the Pale of Russia and the breakup of the U.S.S.R.

➡ From the **Navigation** tab, click on **Geography**. Compare the two maps. The names of Gubernias on the left and the names of the Districts or Regions on the Right.

➡ Between 1783 and 1919 the **Byelorussia Governorate changed administrative terminology**.

➡ **The Byelorussia Governorate was** composed of parts of Vilna, Vitebsk, Grodno and Minsk.

Maps make it easy to see the changes in the

Belarusian Governorate.

➡ [View this 9th-11th century map and a time line map showing the changes after the Third Partition of Poland](#)

➡ [View this timeline map of the Administrative Regions and the Districts under Ruling Governorates between 1795 - 1990](#)

**Skill Building Exercise #12: Where did my ancestors live?**

➡ **Make yourself a note:** Place your town where it appears in different time periods

Region	Before WWI	Between the Wars	After WWII
Grodno			
Brest			
Kobrin			
Minsk			
Mogilev			
Vitebsk			
Vilna			

Use [JewishGen Communities Database](#) to Search for Grodno

Search for Jewish community:

Narrow the search by modern country?:

Narrow the search by inter-war country?:

Narrow the search by pre-WWI country?:

**Returns**

<a href="#">Ukraine</a> 51°53' N 31°36' E 111 mi NNE of Kyiv	<a href="#">Grodnia</a>	<a href="#">Soviet Union</a>	<a href="#">Ukraine SSR</a> Soviet Union	<a href="#">Chernigov</a> Russian Empire	<a href="#">18</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Hrodna, Belarus</a> 53°41' N 23°50' E 153 mi W of Minsk	<a href="#">Grodno</a> [Pol, Rus], <a href="#">Grodne</a> [Yid], <a href="#">Hrodna</a> [Bel], <a href="#">Gardinas</a> [Lith], <a href="#">Garten</a> [Ger], <a href="#">Hurodno</a> [Yid], <a href="#">Horodne</a>	<a href="#">Grodno</a> Soviet Union	<a href="#">Grodno</a> <a href="#">Grodno</a> <a href="#">Bialystok</a> Poland	<a href="#">Grodno</a> <a href="#">Grodno</a> <a href="#">Grodno</a> Russian Empire	<a href="#">2380</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Vilyavche</a>		<a href="#">Vilyavche</a>	<a href="#">Vilauceja</a>	<a href="#">Willawcze</a>	

**Explanations—What Does this Record Tell Us**

Modern Town & Country	Other Names	c. 1950 After WWII Town / Country	c. 1930 Between Wars Town / District / Province / Country	c. 1900 Before WWI Town / District / Province / Country	# of JGFF Entries
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- ➡ On the right side are 3 time periods
- ➡ c 1900 Before WWI and c 1930 Between the Wars
- ➡ Each offers you Administrative Units to follow: Town/District/Province/Country.
- ➡ Each Administrative Unit is part of a larger Unit.
- ➡ Your return offers hyperlinks (underlined) that lead to new information

### Skill Building Exercise #13: Explore the towns within a District

- ➔ From results of Exercise 12 for the Grodno District (open JewishGen Home Page. Click on Databases. Choose Communities. Search Grodno.) Click on Hrodna to open the Jewish Communities Page for Grodno.

	Town	District	Province	Country
Before WWI (c. 1900):	Grodno	<a href="#">Grodno</a>	<a href="#">Grodno</a>	Russian Empire
Between the wars (c. 1930):	Grodno	<a href="#">Grodno</a>	<a href="#">Bialystok</a>	Poland
After WWII (c. 1950):	Grodno			Soviet Union
Today (c. 2000):	Hrodna			Belarus

- ➔ Analyze this Record. The Town of Grodno around 1900 was in the District of Grodno, in the Province of Grodno and in the Russian Empire. Between the Wars, about 1930, the town of Grodno was in the **District** of Grodno and in the **Province** of Bialystok. After WWII, Grodno was in the Soviet Union. After 1990 (Heading reads Today) Grodno is in Belarus.
- ➔ To Explore Grodno at the time our ancestors might have lived there, click on Grodno **District** before WWI.

### JewishGen Communities Database



Searching for towns in Grodno District, Grodno Province in 1900  
Run on Wednesday 23 March 2016 at 12:20:47

- ➔ Analyze this page of returns. Of the 12 towns listed 10 are currently in Belarus, 1 is in Poland and 1 is in Vilna.
- ➔ Explore Grodno in the **Province** around 1900. Compare the number of towns and their ruling countries with those in the **District** listing.

### Skill Building Exercise #14: Definitions, Glossary and Explanations

- ➔ [What is the difference between a Gubernia, a Region, a District and a Uyzed.](#)
- ➔ Why does the Belarus SIG Communities Page for Grodno have a list of **Uyzeds** rather than **Districts**? Why does the JewishGen Communities Database use a different set of Administrative units than those on the Belarus SIG?
- ➔ [JewishGen Explanations](#)
- ➔ [What are the contemporary Divisions in Belarus Today](#)
- ➔ The Cities of Belarus has a clickable map below the contemporary names of the cities and towns of Belarus.

