

Belarus SIG Communities

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Shtetls of Belarus	Grodno	Minsk	Mogilev	Vitebsk	Vilna	

Skill Building Exercise #15: Compare

- ➔ What is the difference between the information about **Geography** on the **Navigation** section and the **Communications** Section?
- ➔ Examine the secondary toolbar under the Communities toolbar. Are these the same Gubernia hyperlinks from the Home ?

Skill Building Exercise #16: What Geographical Area does the SIG Cover?

- ➔ Where is Oshmiany? Who ruled Drissa before 1900? Could you find Yslamyi on a map? Why is the area of Polosie in three countries? How did [Napoleon's March to Moscow](#) in 1812 and the Lithuanian famine of 1867-1869² affect Jewish Belarus?

Add to your check list questions you want answered.

- ➔ If you know your surname in the old country do you expect to find descendents in the same shtetl from 1765 through 1897 (The last all Russian census)?
- ➔ Do you know if your Gubernia has always had the same boundaries?
- ➔ Look at a variety of maps for different time periods. Was your town ever in another country?
- ➔ If Belarus had no firm boundaries, could your ancestors have married in a village that is now in another country?

Belarus, once home to thousands of Jews, seems to the Jewish visitor, a silent ghost state. The forests stand sentinel and silent now against the 1941 -1942 shootings. A lone partisan teenager survives and meets us and shows us through the town pointing out where Jews lived. To gather their stories what must we do? To go back in time, to recreate our towns, we have to use many sources, eyewitness accounts, contact survivors in Israel, search the Shoah databases and depend on other researchers to fill in our details.

[In 1765, the family I descend from, held the leasehold on the mill and cretchma in Stary Miadziol](#), (Myadel) a very small shtetl 25 miles from Vilnius. [By 1784](#), although there were no surnames, it is possible to trace connections. By 1816 the majority of residents had the surname Gordon and Chodash. There were many intermarriages between families in Svir, Michaeliskis, Kobylnik (Narach) and other towns nearby.

Skill Building Exercise #17: Where is Myadel Today?

Every community search starts on JewishGen.

² **Memel Drought** (March 26, 1869) – The severe and incessant drought of 1868-1869 brought famine and pestilence including widespread typhus.

Go to <http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/Search.asp>

Myadzyel, Belarus

Alternate names: Miadziel [Bel], Miadziol [Pol], Myadel [Lit], Medilas [Lith], Mjadzel, Myadzyel, Miadysol, Miadziol [Lit], Myadzel Novyy, Myadzel-Novoye

Region: Vilna

Name Variants (Callout)

JGFF (Callout)

Time Periods (Callout)

Time Period	Town	District	Province
Before WWI (c. 1900):	Myadel	Vilejka	Vilna
Between the wars (c. 1930):	Miadziol Nowy	Postawy	Wilno
After WWII (c. 1950):	Myadel		Soviet Union
Today (c. 2000):	Myadzyel		Belarus

District and Province (Callout)

Coordinates (Callout)

Kahal (Callout)

Jewish Population in 1900: 459 (in 1866), 436 (in 1897)

Notes: Russian: Мадель / Новый Мадзиол. Belarusian: Мадзел. Hebrew: מיאדזל. 25 miles N of Vilejka (Vilejka), 18 miles SSE of Pastavy (Postawy).

Myadzyel, Belarus: 54°52' N, 26°56' E

Nearby Jewish Communities:

The Jewish Communities Page gives you information you will need to trace your community over time and to help you search for your ancestors.

- ➔ Myadel around 1930 was in the District of Postavy in the Province of Vilna in the Country of Russia. Around 1900, it was in the District of Vileika in the Province of Vilna. Today (after the breakup of U.S.S.R in 1990) it belongs to Belarus.
- ➔ Ask Google - Search String **Jewish Myadel -kehilalinks**
- ➔ Use the bottom toolbar: **JEWISHGEN SEARCH** Search String - **Myadel -kehilalinks**

JEWISHGEN SEARCH KEHILALINKS SITE MAP SITE SEARCH SUPPORT/VOLUNTEER DONATE TAKE OUR SURVEY

JEWISHGEN SEARCH (Callout)

KEHILALINKS (Callout)

Skill Building Exercise #18: Where on the Belarus SIG can I find Myadel?

- ➔ Check the [Jewish Communities Page](#).
- ➔ Myadel was in Vileika District around 1900 before WWI. Vileika District was in Vilna Gubernia before it was in Belarus.
- ➔ Check Vilna Gubernia from the **Home Page** to find the Vileika District.
- ➔ Clicking on the Vilna hyperlink takes you to **Communities** Pages on the Belarus SIG

Skill Building Exercise #19: Where is the list of Shtetls and Shtetlach from the old Belarus Shtetl Pages?

- ➔ On **Communities** tab and on the **Site Map** you will find the saved Gubernia town lists.
- ➔ [Former Lithuanian Shtetls in Belarus](#)
- ➔ [Shtetls of Grodno Gubernia](#)
- ➔ [Shtetls of Minsk Gubernia](#)
- ➔ [Shtetls of MogilevGubernia](#)
- ➔ [Shtetls of VitebskGubernia](#)

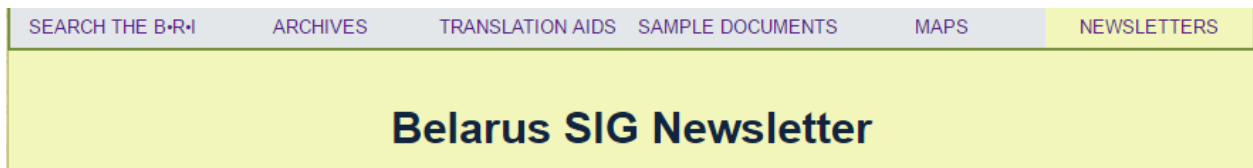
Skill Building Exercise #20: [Where is the old Shtetls of Belarus?](#)

On the [Communities](#) page you will find the hyperlink to the search the **Shtetls of Belarus**. The shtetl names are keyed to modern names, coordinates and USBGN geographic identifiers.

➡ **Try it! In the search box type your shtetl or use Myadel as the town name.**

Skill Building Exercise #21: Why does the SIG have all these links to background material on the [Communities](#) pages?

- ➡ Find your Gubernia. Investigate some of the links on the Communities page for your District.
- ➡ Are you interested in the poor? in occupations? the number of cows? border changes?
- ➡ Open the [Record Sources](#) Toolbar and Investigate [Newsletters](#) for your Gubernia.



Belarus has been closed to researchers since WWII. Very few records have been available for long periods of time. In the early 1990s, the Mormons were able to film some of the record books from the Jewish Communities in Minsk and Mogilev. Some Grodno records are available through the Polish Archives.

Therefore, Belarus SIG leaders have tried to find **secondary records** to provide work-arounds when records are not available. The website offers you background information on the Communities Pages. It offers you background stories and papers to read on the [Record Sources](#) tab marked

