

An Overview of Doukhobor Settlement and Migration

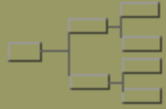
Jonathan J. Kalmakoff

*Peter's Day Commemoration
Blaine Lake Doukhobor Prayer Home,
Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan
June 24, 2012*



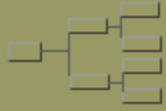
Migration & Settlement

- Prior to 1802
- The Molochnaya: 1801-1845
- The Caucasus: 1841-1899
 - Tiflis
 - Elizavetpol
 - Kars
- Cyprus: 1898-1899
- Canada: 1899-present
 - Saskatchewan
 - British Columbia
 - Alberta



Prior to 1802

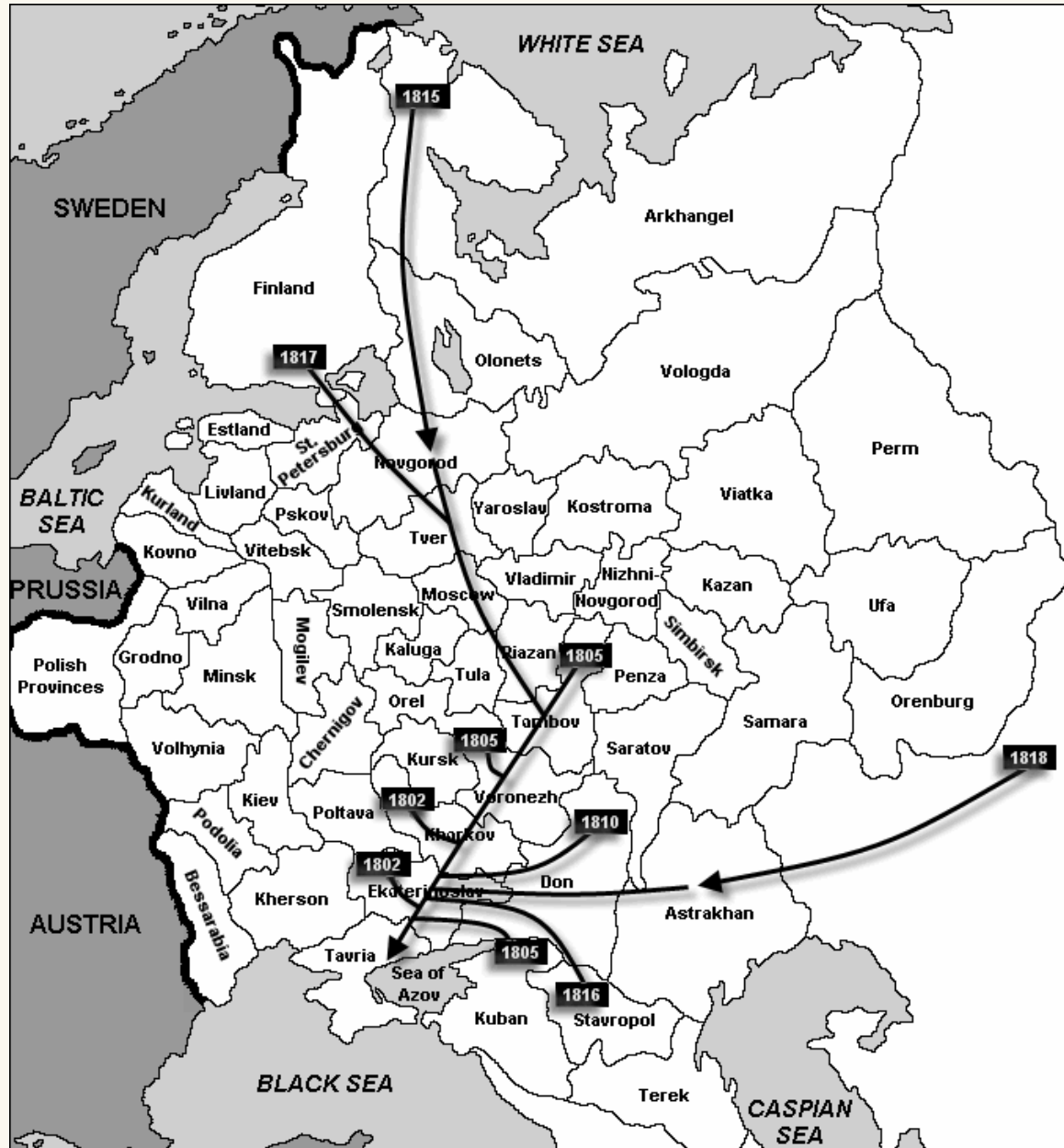
- From 1730's to 1802, Doukhobors spread throughout the Russian Empire
 - Typically no more than 2-3 families in any one settlement
- Majority located in southern Russia
 - Principal populations in Ekaterinoslav, Sloboda-Ukraine (Kharkov), Tambov, Voronezh, and the Don
 - Lesser populations in Astrakhan, Saratov, Penza, Orel, Kursk, Poltava, Kherson, Tavria, and the Caucasus.
- Also, groups of Doukhobors exiled to frontier regions
 - Island of Ezel and Fortress of Dünamünde in the Baltic, Vyborg district of Finland, Solovetsky Island and Kola Peninsula in northern Russia, Fortress of Azov, the Ekaterinburg, Nerchinsk, Lake Baikal, Tobolsk, Tomsk and Irkutsk districts of Siberia
- Period of intense religious persecution



Resettlement to Molochnaya

- 1802 Doukhobors permitted to settle in Tavria
 - Religious amnesty granted
 - 5 year tax exemption, 10-year interest free loan
 - Costs of transportation covered by the State
 - 15 *desiatinas* (40 acres) of land granted to each settler
- Permission granted on area-by-area basis
 - (1802) Ekaterinoslav and Sloboda-Ukraine, (1805) Tambov, Voronezh, Azov, (1810) Don Cossack region, (1815) Penza, Kola Peninsula, (1816) Caucasus, (1817) Finland, (1818) Siberia
 - No 'blanket' permission
- Doukhobor settlement to Tavria suspended in 1822

Resettlement to Molochnaya

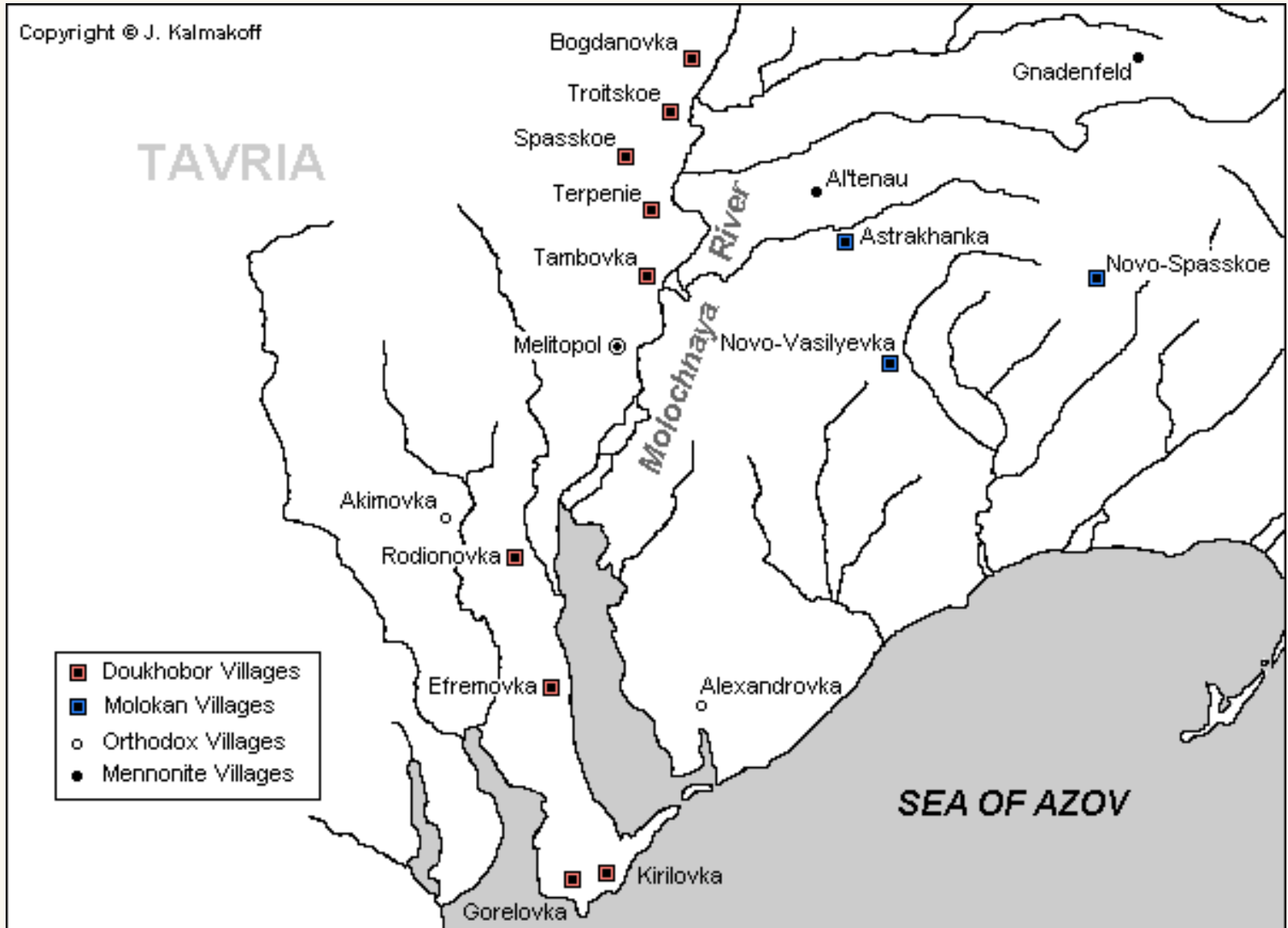


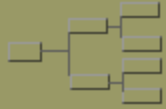


The Molochnaya, 1802-1845

- Settlement along west bank of Molochnaya River
 - Area known as *Molochnye Vody* (“Milky Waters”)
- Melitopol district of Tavria province, Russia
 - present-day Zaporozhiye province, Ukraine
- Nine village established
 - 131,417 acres in agricultural landholdings
 - also flour mills, textile mills, stud farm, livestock herds, orchards
- Period of general prosperity, religious toleration, growth and consolidation of the sect

The Molochnaya, 1802-1845





Exile to Caucasus, 1841-1845

- Persecution resumes in 1825 under Nicholas I
 - brands Doukhobors a “most pernicious sect”
- Beginning in 1830, groups of Doukhobors exiled to Caucasus to isolate sect from Orthodox population
 - 265 Don Cossack Doukhobors in 1830
- Culminated in 1841-1845 with the deportation of the main group of Doukhobors in Tavia
 - 4,992 Doukhobors exiled in five parties over a five year period
 - Doukhobors who converted to Orthodoxy permitted to stay
- Exiles continued on an individual basis to the 1870's
 - primarily from Tambov and Voronezh

Exile to Caucasus, 1841-1845





The Caucasus, 1841-1899

- Akhalkalaki district, Tiflis province, Russia
 - present-day Ninotsminda district, Georgia
 - area known as *Kholodnoye* or *Dukhobor'ye*
 - 8 villages established (1841-1842)
- Borchalo district, Tiflis province, Russia
 - present-day Dmanisi district, Georgia
 - 3 villages established (1844-1845)
- Kedabek district, Elizavetpol province, Russia
 - present-day Gadabay district, Azerbaijan
 - 4 villages established (1844-1847)
- Shuragel' district, Kars province, Russia
 - present-day Akyaka district, Kars province, Turkey
 - 4 villages established (1879-1880)
- Zarishat district, Kars province, Russia
 - Present-day Arpacay district, Kars province, Turkey
 - 2 villages established (1879-1880)

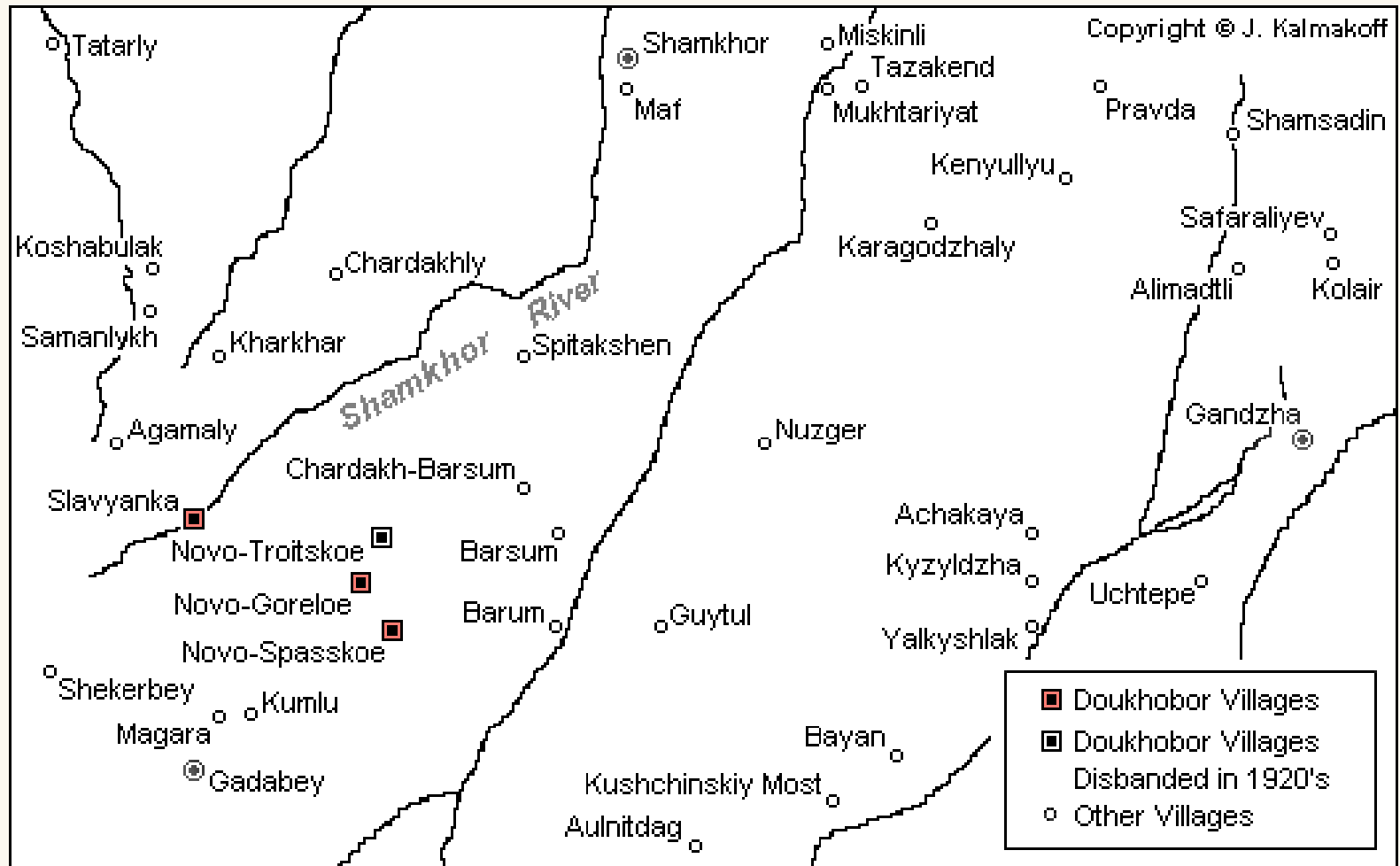
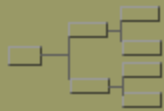
The Caucasus, 1841-1899



The Caucasus: Tiflis

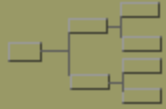


The Caucasus: Elizavetpol



The Caucasus: Kars





The Caucasus, 1895-1899

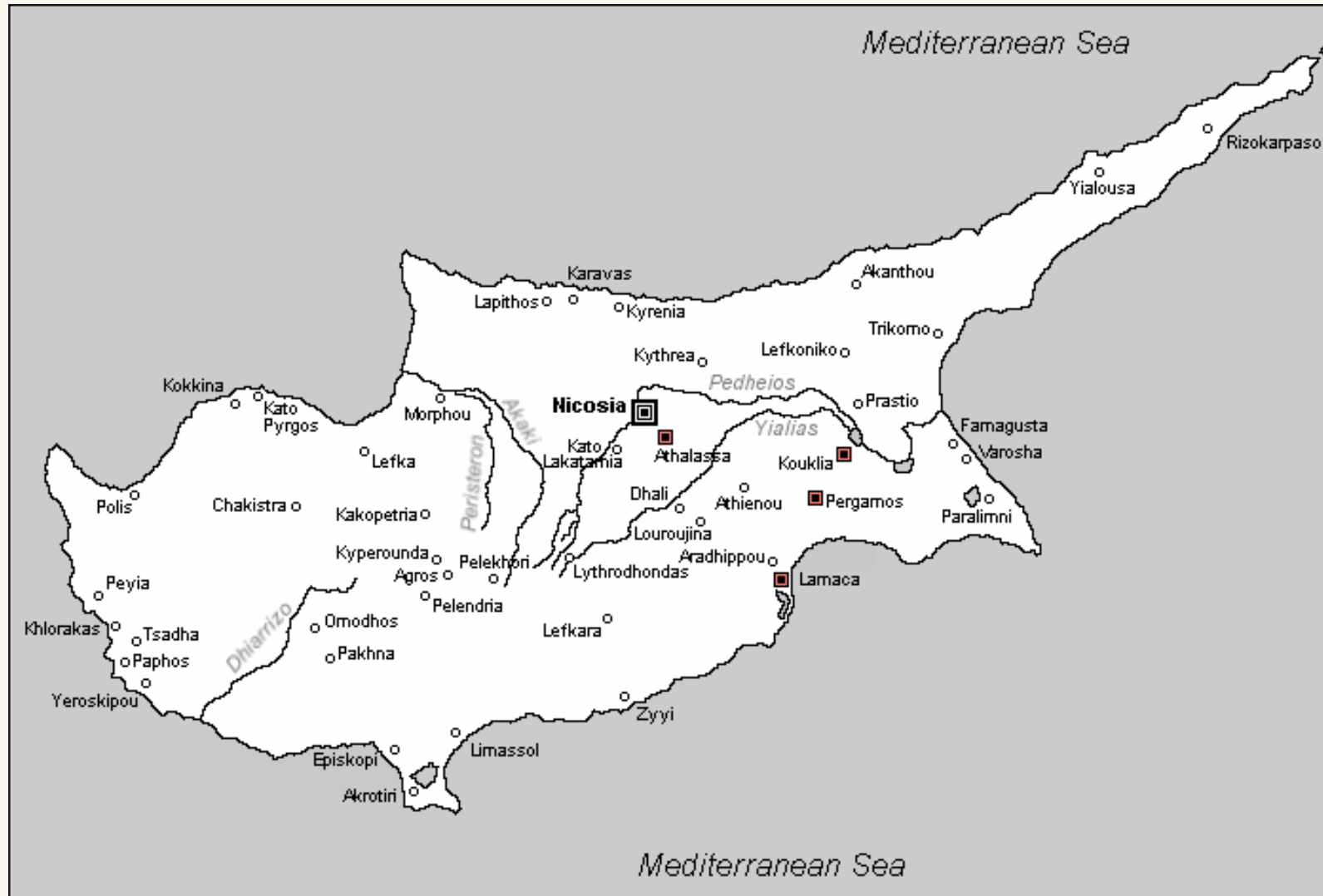
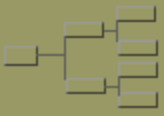
- 1886 – central hereditary leadership ends
 - leadership crisis results
 - Doukhobor community splits into Small, Middle and Large parties
- 1887 - universal military service introduced
 - Doukhobors serve, initially
- 1895 – renewed Doukhobor pacifism
 - Refusal to perform military service
 - Burning of Arms
- 1895-1899 – renewed religious persecution
 - 125 Doukhobor military conscripts and elders exiled to Siberia
 - 258 Doukhobor military reservists and elders imprisoned, then exiled to Baku and Erevan
 - 4,300 Doukhobors civilians in Tiflis exiled to the Gori, Tioneti, Dusheti and Signakhi districts

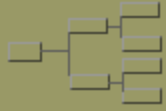


Cyprus, 1898-1899

- August 1898 - 1,126 Doukhobor refugees permitted to settle on Mediterranean island of Cyprus
 - 3 farm settlements established
- Unsuitable settlement conditions, poor planning
 - extreme heat and humidity, impure water, unsanitary housing
 - already destitute, impoverished and weakened, 108 settlers perish from famine, disease and exhaustion
- April 1899 – Survivors abandon Cyprus, relocate to Canada

Cyprus, 1898-1899





1899 Immigration to Canada

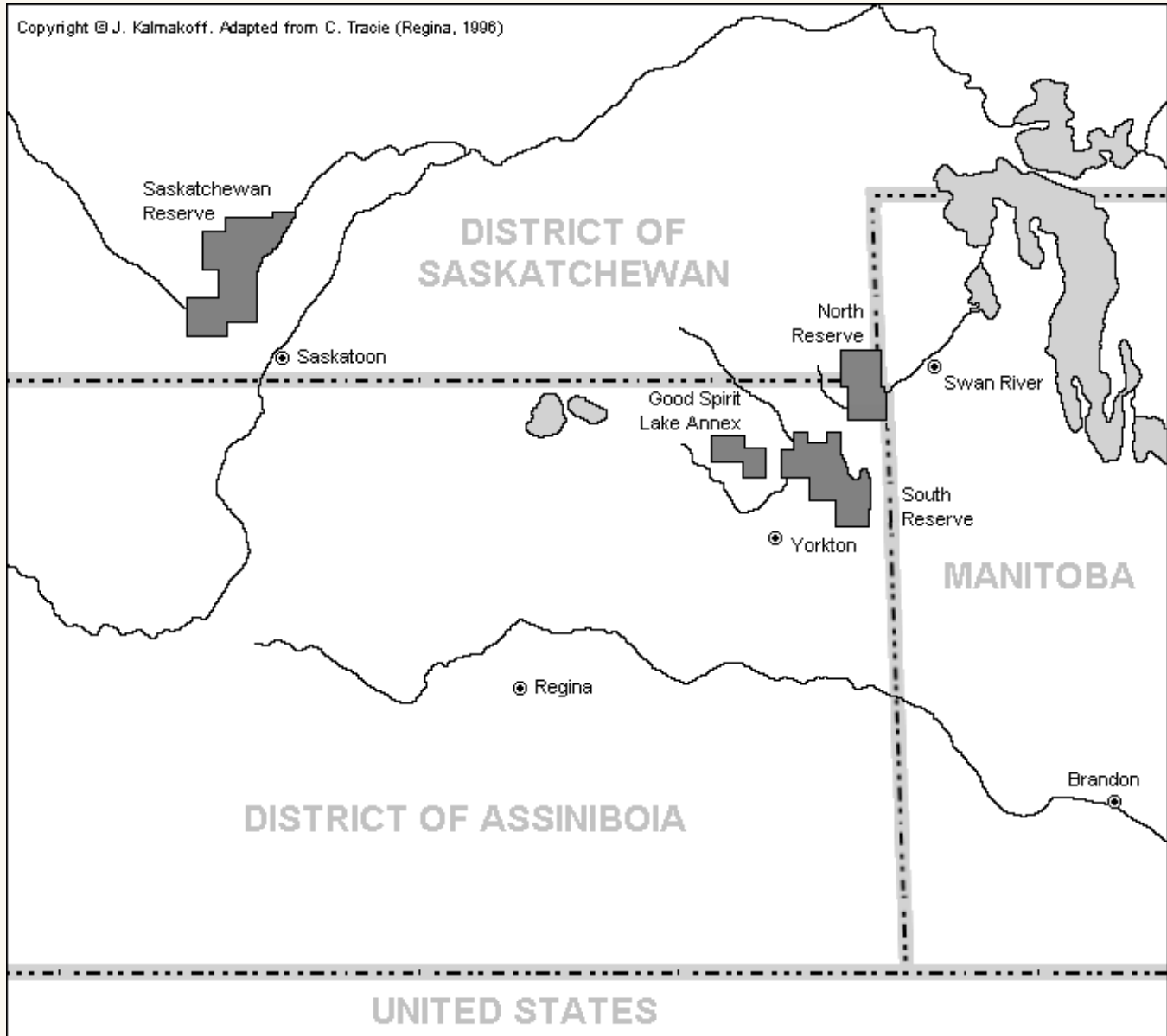
- 7,500 Doukhobors immigrate to Canada
 - sailed to Canada in four shiploads
- aided by Leo Tolstoy and Society of Friends (Quakers) in England and America
- largest mass migration in Canadian history
- another 1,200 Doukhobors immigrate in 1901-1914
- 12,000 Doukhobors remain in Russia



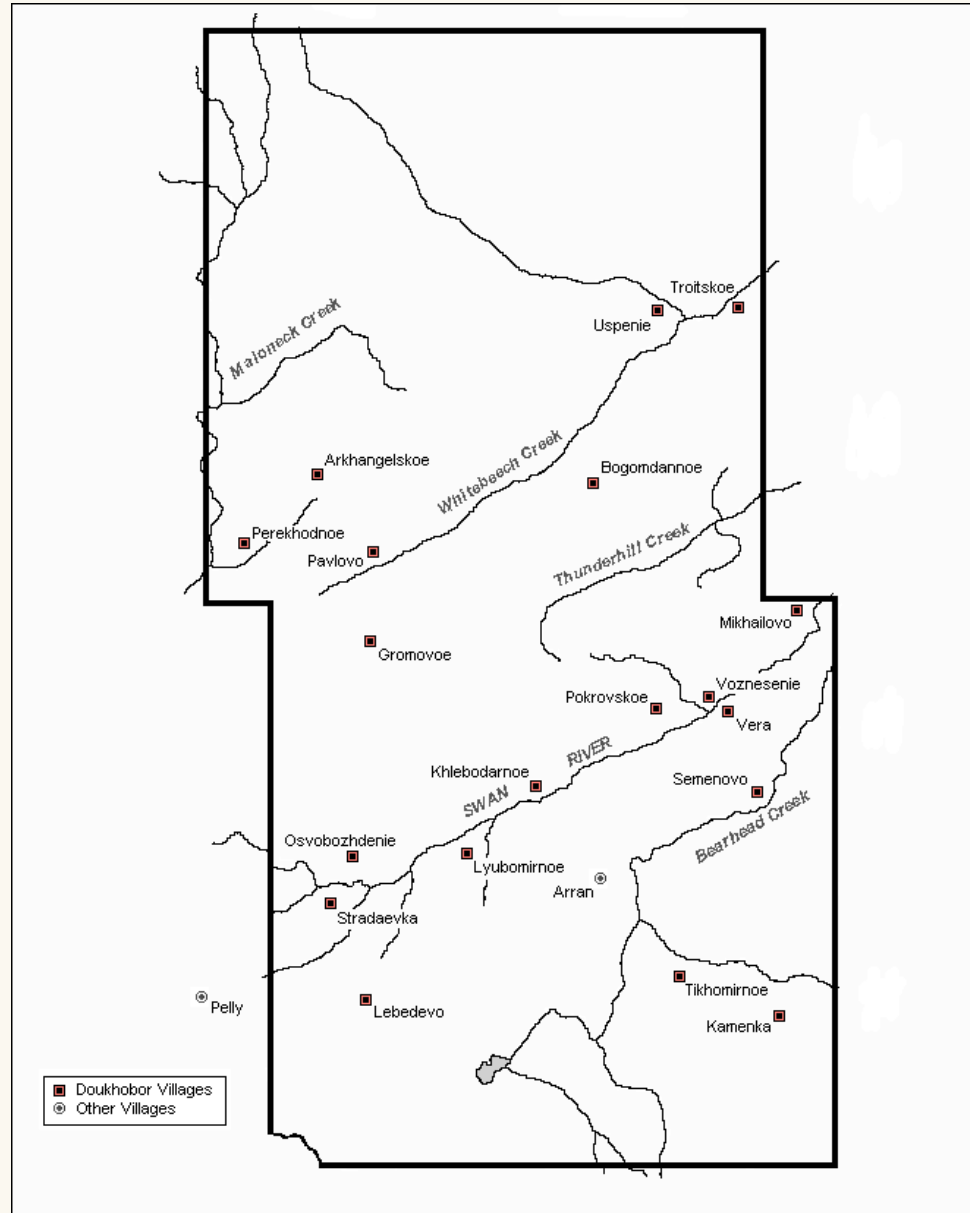
Saskatchewan, 1899-1918

- Doukhobors settle on 3 large blocks of homestead land reserved for them in Saskatchewan
- North Reserve
 - Pelly, Arran districts
 - 69,000 acres
 - 20 villages established
- South Reserve & Devils Lake Annex
 - Kamsack, Veregin, Canora, Buchanan districts
 - 383,940 acres
 - 38 villages established
- Saskatchewan Reserve
 - Blaine Lake, Langham districts
 - 324,800 acres
 - 13 villages established

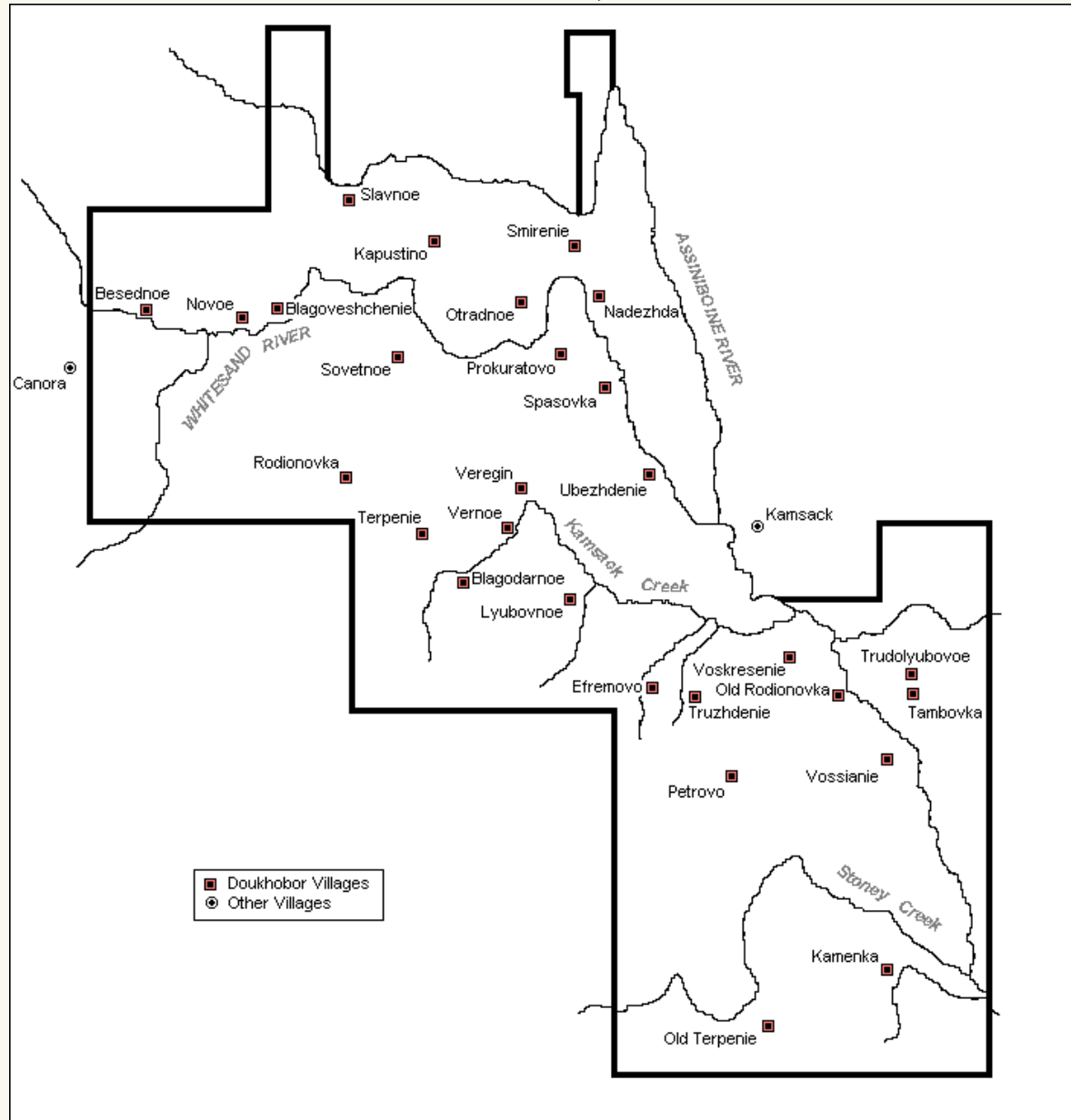
Saskatchewan, 1899-1918



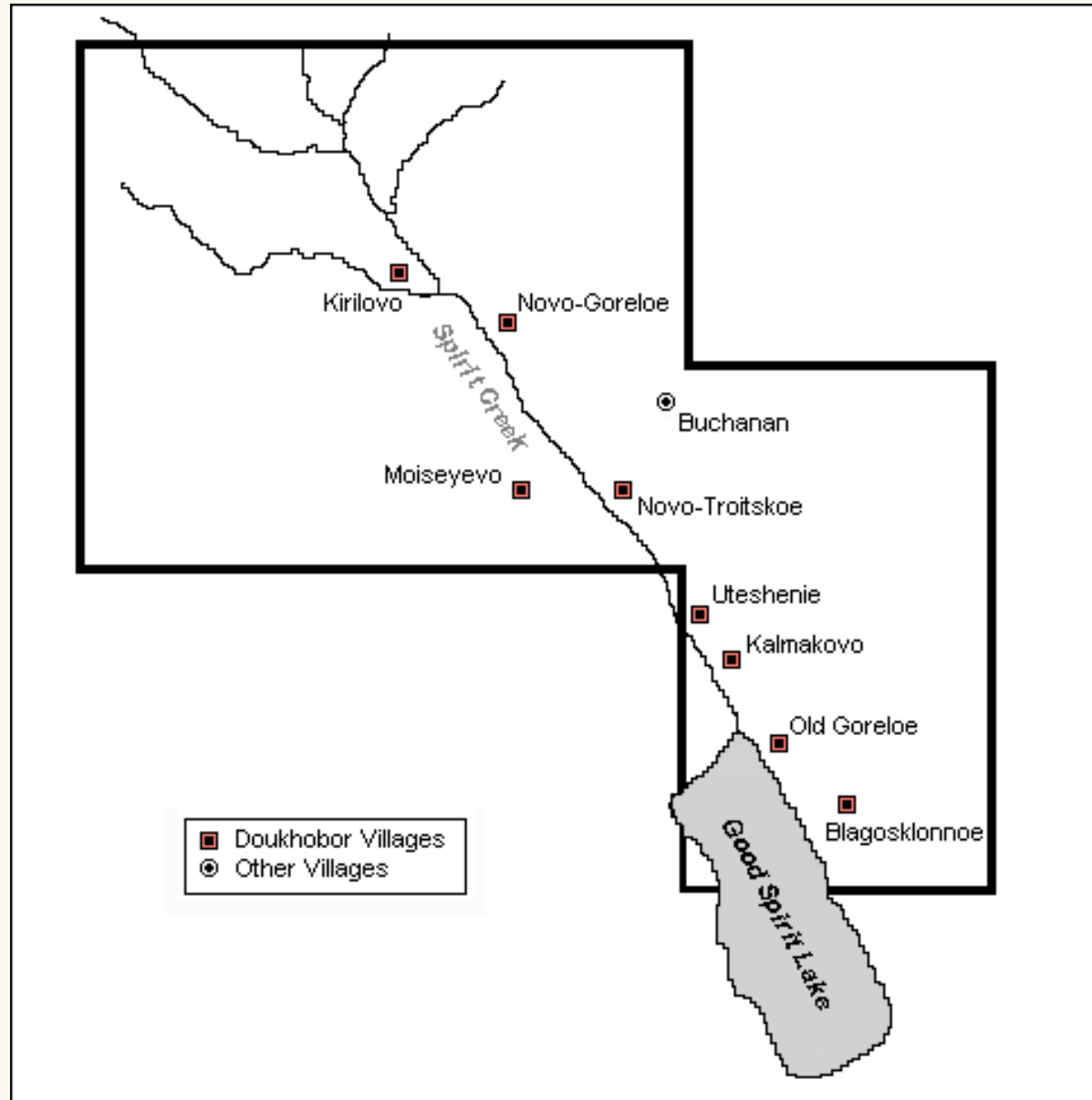
North Reserve, 1899-1918



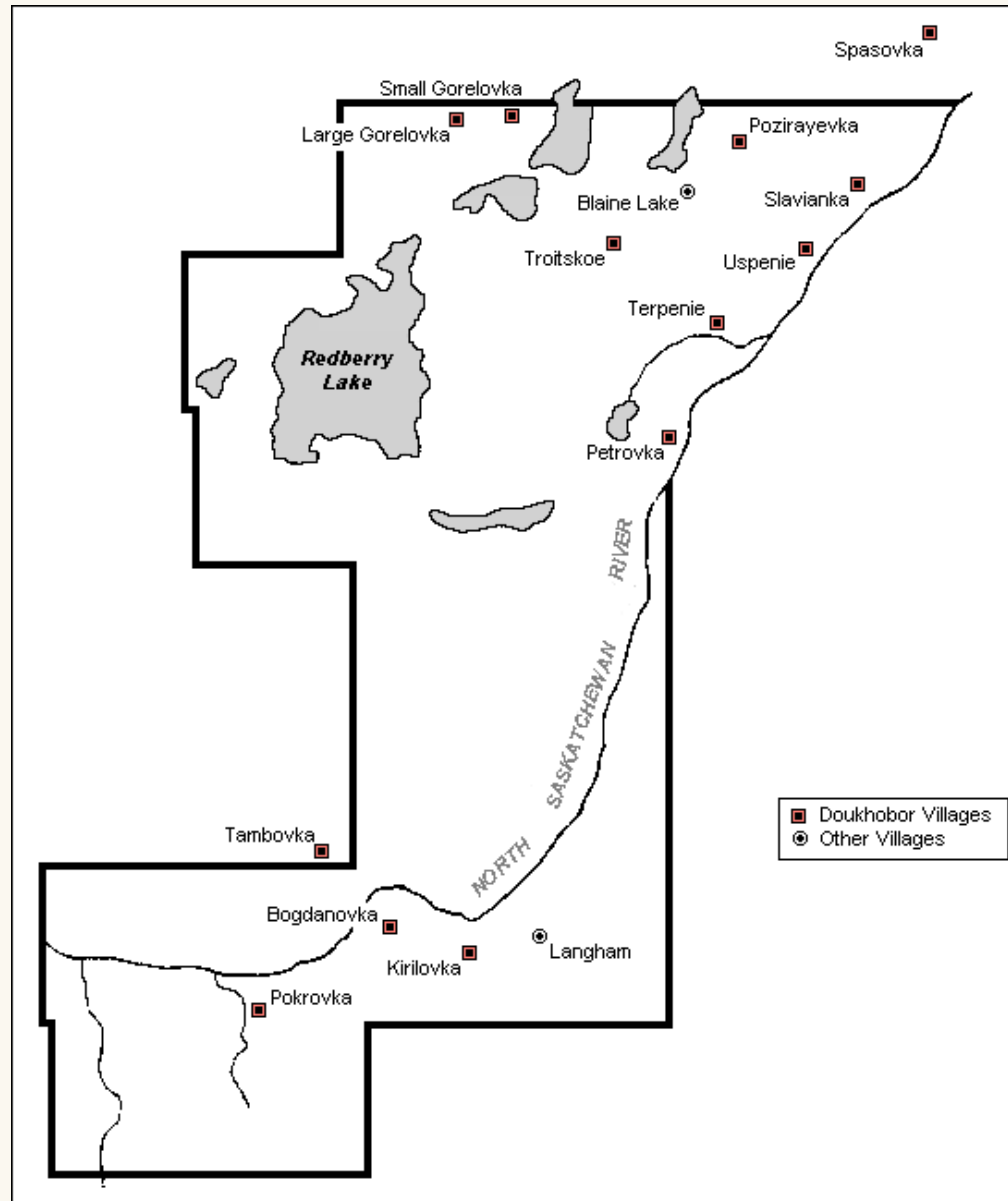
South Reserve, 1899-1918

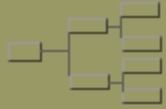


Devils Lake Annex, 1899-1918



Saskatchewan Reserve, 1899





Saskatchewan, 1899-1918

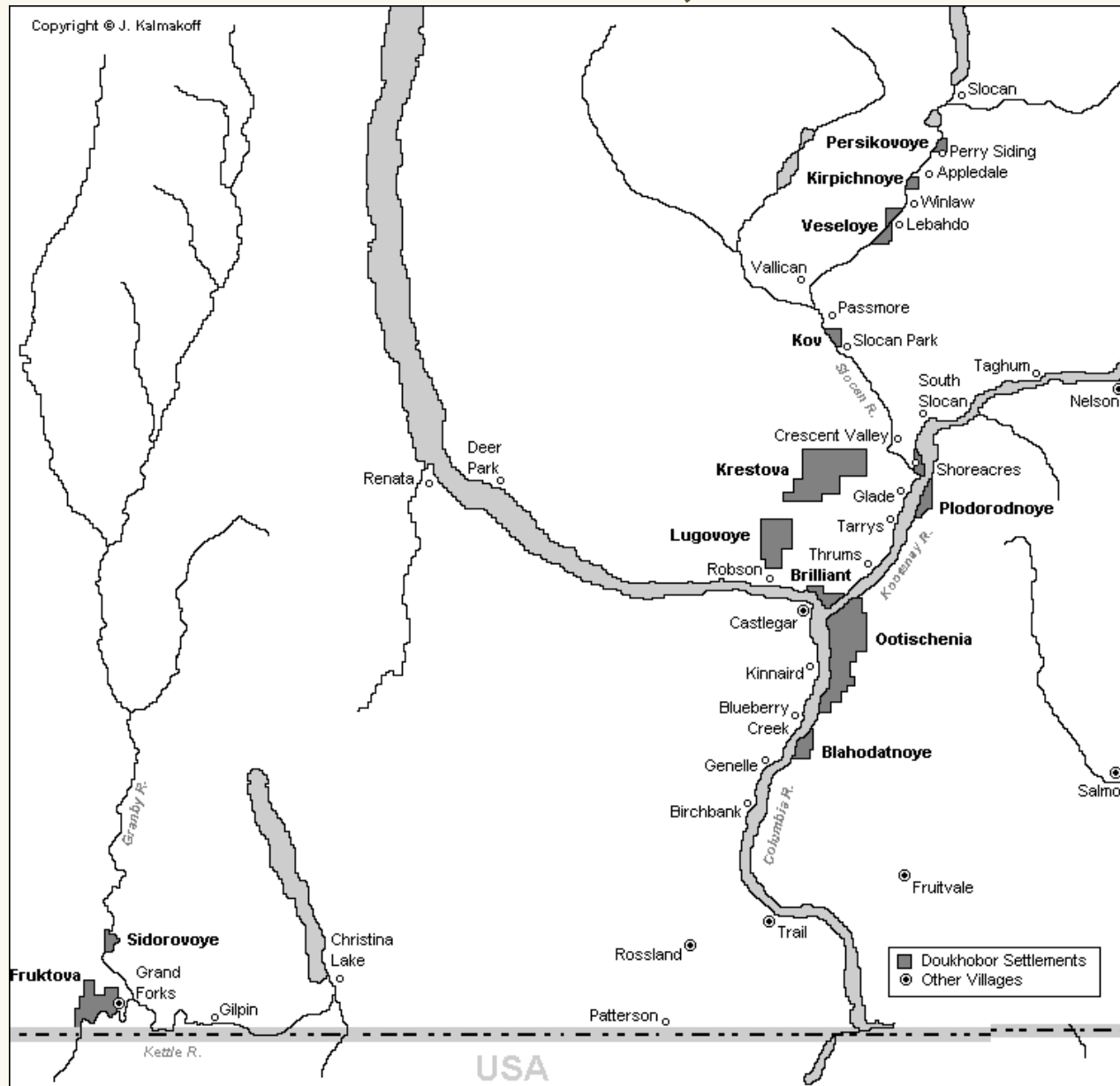
- 1903-1907 – land ownership crisis results over compliance with homestead rules
- Doukhobors split into three factions
 - Independents – take oath, accept private property
 - Community – refuse oath, reject private property
 - Sons of Freedom – small radical zealot wing
- 1907 – loss of Community Doukhobor homesteads
- 1918 – Doukhobor homestead reserves closed



British Columbia, 1908-1938

- 1908-1912 - Community Doukhobors relocate to BC
 - 8,000 Doukhobors resettle from Saskatchewan
 - 19,000 acres of land purchased
- Columbia River Valley
 - Fruktova/Sion (West Grand Forks), Khristovoye (Outlook), Ubezhishche (Spencer), Bozhiya Dolina, Sidorovoye areas
 - 32 villages established
- Kootenay River Valley
 - Blagodatnoye (Champion Creek), Castlegar Brilliant, Malinvoye (Raspberry), Ootischenia, Lugovoye (Pass Creek), Plodorodnoye (Glade), Prekrasnoye (Shoreacres) areas
 - 53 villages established
- Slocan River Valley
 - Krestova, Kov (Slocan Park), Veseloye, Kirpichnoye, Lebahdo, Winlaw Persikovoye (Perry Siding) areas
 - 10 villages established
- 1938 – demise of the CCUB

British Columbia, 1908-1938

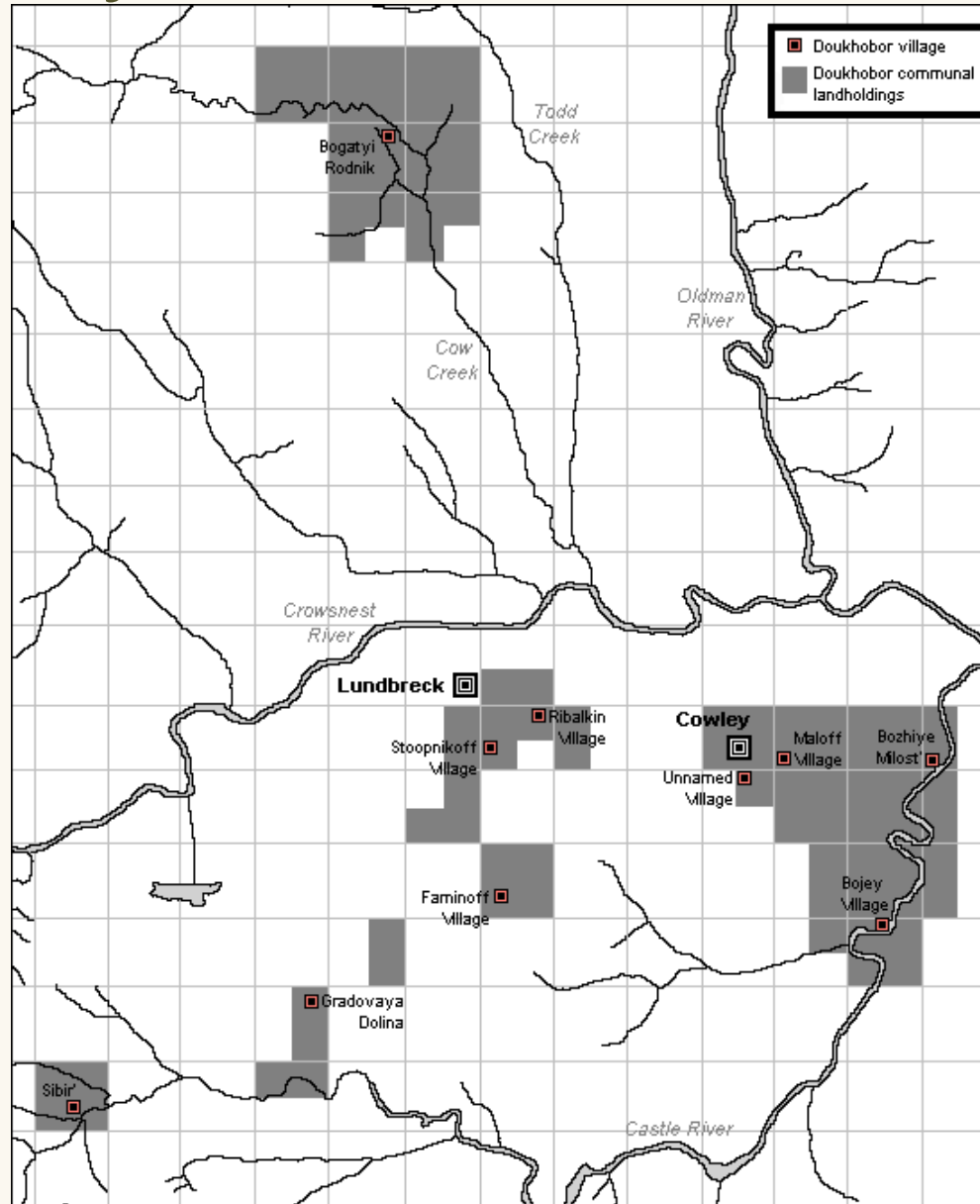




Alberta, 1915-1938

- **Cowley-Lundbreck districts**
 - 250 Community Doukhobors purchase 13,500 acres in 1915-1917
 - 13 villages established
 - villages abandoned, lands sold in 1938
- **Arrowwood-Shouldice districts**
 - break-away group of 160 Community Doukhobors purchase 640 acres in 1926,
 - 1 village established
 - abandoned in 1945
- **Mossleigh district**
 - 25 Independent Doukhor families settle on individual farms
- **Other areas**
 - Individual Doukhor families settle in Pincher Creek, Nanton, Crowfoot, Queenstown, Vulcan, Vauxhall, Skiff, Lethbridge, Rosebud and other districts

Cowley-Lundbreck, Alberta, 1915

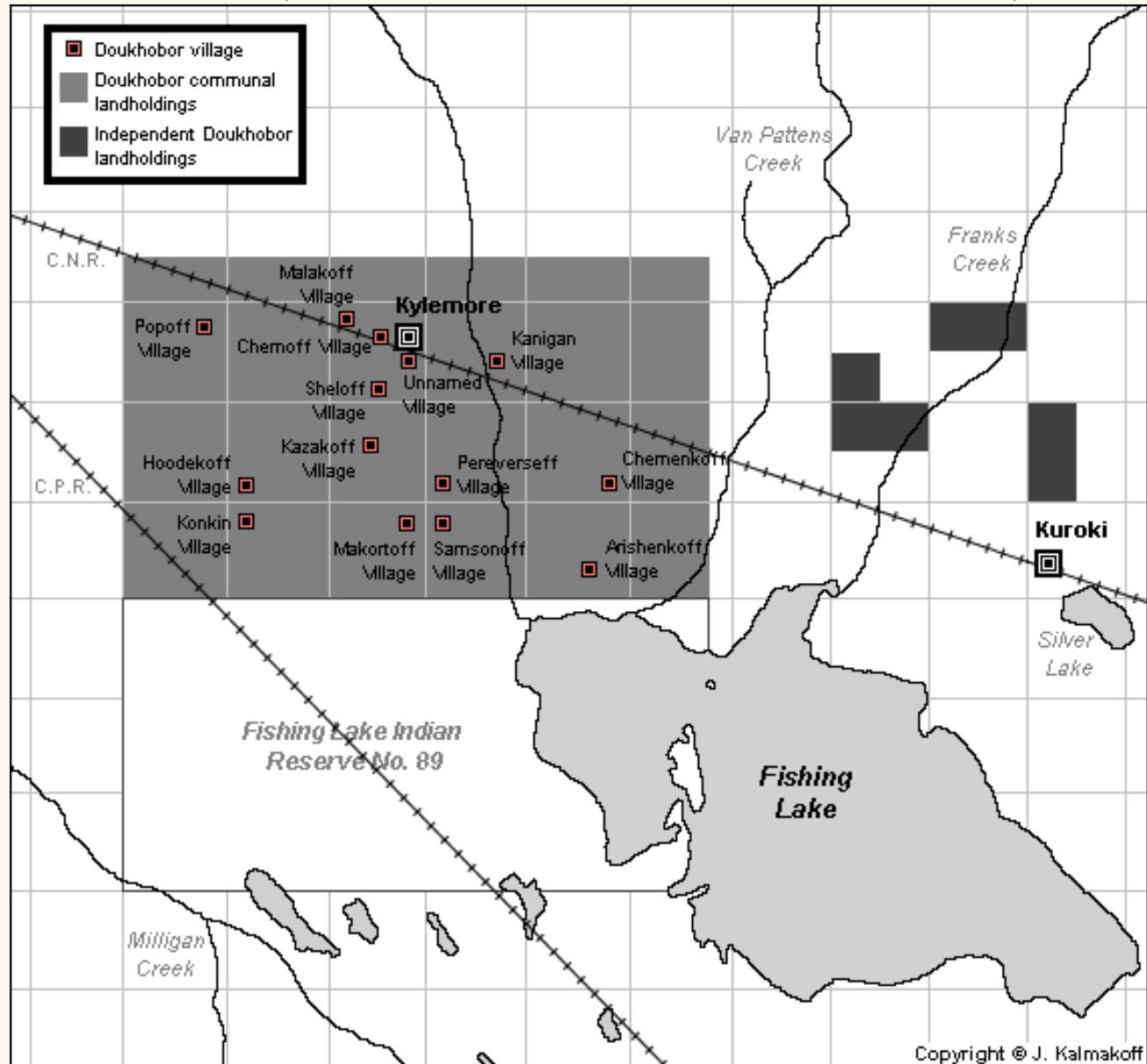




Saskatchewan, Post-1918

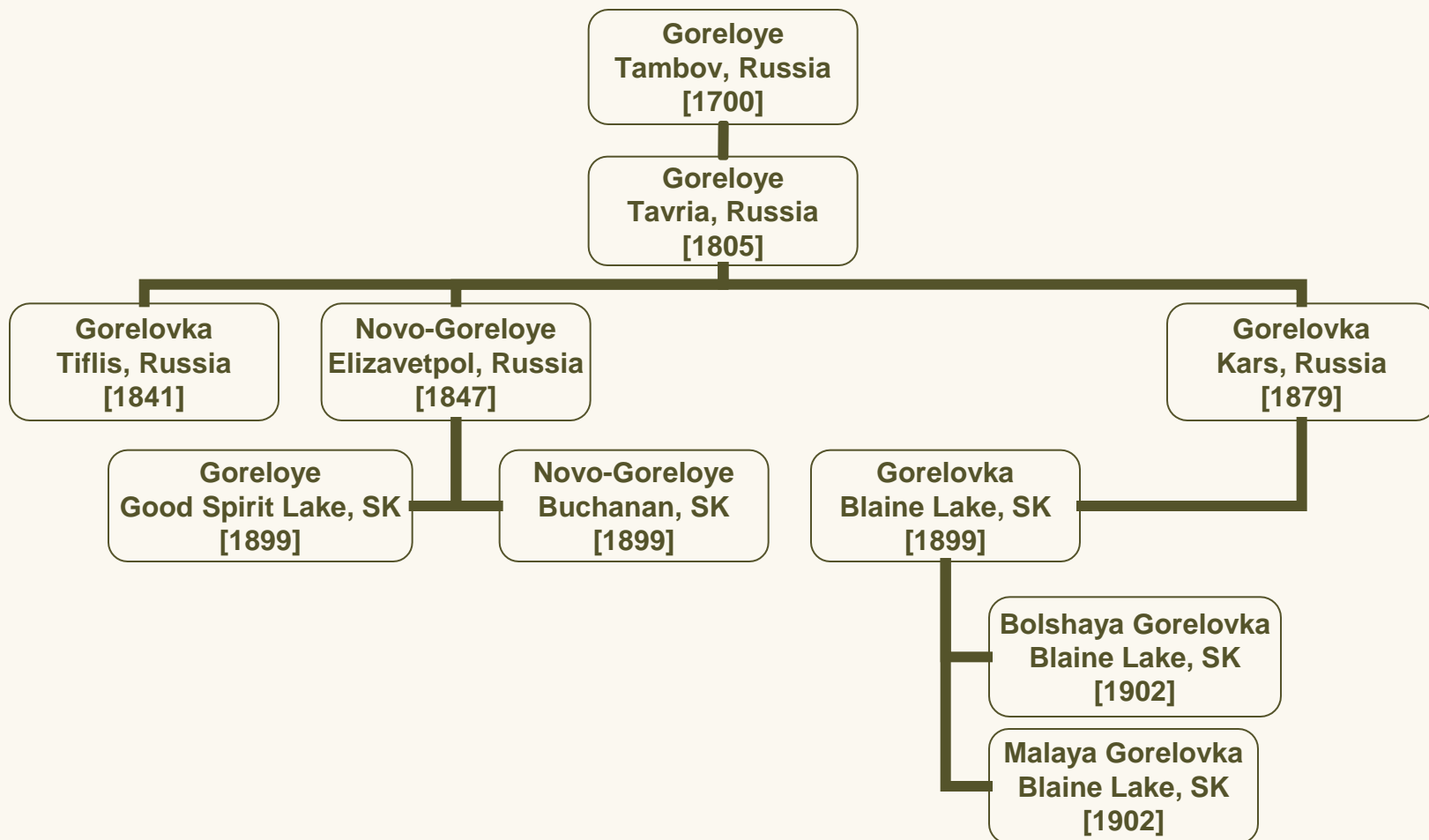
- Kylemore district
 - 250 Community Doukhobors purchase 11,362 acres in 1918
 - 14 villages established
 - villages abandoned, lands sold in 1938
- Kelvington district
 - Community Doukhobors purchase 8,000 acres in 1921
 - no villages established
 - lands sold in 1938
- Veregin district
 - 600 Community Doukhobors purchase 160,000 acres in 1904-1918
 - 22 villages established
 - Villages abandoned, lands sold in 1938
- Watson district
 - 26 Independent Doukhobor families settle on individual farms

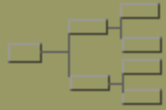
Kylemore, Saskatchewan, 1918





Recurring Place Names





Doukhobor Genealogy Website

www.doukhobor.org

- dedicated to the reclamation, discovery, collection, preservation and sharing of information related to Doukhobor family history
- the largest and most comprehensive internet source connecting researchers of Doukhobor genealogy
 - guides and indexes to archival records
 - surname databases, guides to names and naming practices, glossaries
 - place name databases, gazetteers, historical maps, ancestral village finder
 - stories, biographies, articles and tutorials
 - message board
 - useful internet links