

“THE DOUKHOBOR ODYSSEY” 1600 - 1899



1600 - 1802

1. They were part of the early Christian sects/ Russian Orthodox Church dissidents who predated the Reformation in the West and “The Rascol” in 1650 in Russia. In 1802 Czar Alexander I relocated them to the Sea of Azov area of the Black Sea.

1802 - 1841

2. Their success here attracted many followers. Complaints by the Church Clergy forced Czar Nicholas I to issue an edict, “All those who did not renounce their Doukhobor Faith and return to the fold of the Church shall be exiled to the barren Caucasus Region”. A few returned to the Church but most moved by foot in a 6 month period.

1841 - 1898

3. After suffering extreme persecution by the authorities where 1000 out of 21,000 people were killed for refusing military service, they began to seek immigration. With the help and financial assistance of Lev Tolstoy, Russian intellectuals and the Quakers, in December 1898, the first ship with 2,100 passengers sailed from the Port of Batum on the Black Sea.

1898 - 1899

4. In a six month period in 1898/1899, some 7500 Souls arrived in Canada and settled mainly in Saskatchewan.(N.W.T.)

***THE JOURNEY FROM 17th CENTURY RUSSIA TO CANADA
1600 - January 21, 1899***