

Odelia

Dear diary,

Father said that we are going to move away to America. I asked him why and he said that it is too dangerous here in the pale of settlement. He also said that we need money. He said that in America the streets are paved with gold, but I don't believe him. We are going with are family and all I'm taking my doll. I I hope he is right and we will have a better life. I'm worried we won't make it to america but father said we will.

Batya

February 2th, 1891

My name is Mara Olshanky. Our crops are not growing and we are starving. The pale is so small and cramped, my little brother can't get the exercise or education he needs. Dyedushka decided it would be best to go to America. I can get a job to support the family there, my brother can go to school and we will have food. We will grow a wealthy farm with lots of crops and will not starve. We are taking our 3 pennies, a bundle of a few carrots and bread and a tin of water for the journey. I hope these things will help us on the ship. I hope we will get to America safely and will have a better, richer life there. I fear that we may get caught on the borders of the pale and will get arrested, or worse, killed. I hope we will not get separated and will get to America safely together, but I fear this might not happen. I hope for the best on our journey.

-Mara Olshanky

Eli

It's December 13th, 1931, and all the russians are chasing us once a week at least! I don't feel safe! I wish I lived in america but it would be a hard journey according to the stories I've heard. We'd have to sneak passed the pogroms, save up tons of money, and if we got caught we'd be imprisoned, harshly fined, and/or even hurt. In america me and my family would be free, get a job, make new friends, and/or be allowed to be myself! Me, my mom, sister, and dad would take a small fraction of what we own and leave the rest. My dad said I could take 7 things. I chose beary (my teddy bear), my set of shabbos supplies, my kippah that my grandma gave me, my favorite cup, my menorah, my boots that my other grandma gave me, and my favorite cloths.

Gabby

Hi my name is Victoria. I am leaving from Russia because of the programs. It is very dangerous to live in the Pale. You can get majorly hurt. I am going to America because the streets are paved with gold. I could work in a factory and so can my mom. I am going with my mom and two brothers. I am taking myself and clothing, and medicine for the boat. My hopes are that I am going to find a job and that my brother does too. My fear is that it's not going to be as good as we heard it's going to be.

Love,  
Victoria

Jonathan

My name is Constantine Lenovsky but my friends call me Kostya. I want to leave Russia With My Family because of these pogroms, these pogroms are these russian soldiers that destroy everything and hurt people. These guys are no good so i'm sailing to America. I want to go to America to earn money and to have a better life. I will be taking some fresh food and water for the trip to America. My hopes are getting to america and having a better life. My fears are me or my family getting seasick or get sick or even die. But on the other hand we still might survive.